

Wednesday August 28 1996

Table of flight times and destinations including Abu Dhabi, Amsterdam, Athens, etc.

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46,644

James Wood defends Nabokov

For the love of Lolita



Arts

Theatre of youth celebrates the big 40



Society

Drugs threat in Northern Ireland

G2 pages 10/11

Iraqis' hijack gamble

John Hullah, Christopher Elliott, Owen Rowland, Kathy Evans and Ian Black

THE security services were last night expected to begin debriefing seven Iraqi hijackers who gave themselves up at Stansted Airport yesterday, sparking a political row. It appeared the Iraqis, thought to be dissidents, may have been successful in their high-stakes gamble.



British servicemen enter the Sudanese aircraft at Stansted yesterday after the Iraqi hijackers gave themselves up

The hijackers, who safely released the other 192 passengers and crew on the Sudan Airways flight diverted from Jordan, had claimed they were carrying explosives. They are likely to be prosecuted and serve jail terms in Britain instead of being returned to the Sudan, closely linked to Saddam Hussein's regime.

The hijackers, who were being held at Harlow police station in Essex, believed they could trade off political asylum for their families for their own jail terms. Their success could depend on how much their relations knew when they boarded the flight, and how much the hijackers can tell the security services.

Britain has granted refugee status to 1,835 Iraqis since 1992, and exceptional leave to remain to a further 1,905. The hijackers appear to be banking on Britain's unwillingness to turn its back on opponents of Saddam.

But David Howell, chairman of the foreign affairs select committee, insisted the hijackers be returned to the Sudan. Permission to allow them to remain would make Britain seem a soft touch for terrorists.

Mr Howell said: "If the word gets round that the quick way to asylum is three years in jail and then you're out, and in the country where you wanted to get to, that would be absolutely disastrous to the whole policy towards asylum seekers."

They diverted to Larnaca in Cyprus, and threatened to blow it up. They then set off for Heathrow, signalling their wish for asylum.

Tilt survives after 537 freed in jails fiasco

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE fiasco over the early release of prisoners plumbd new depths last night when the Home Secretary was forced to announce that 537 inmates had been freed, six times more than the original figure of 86 announced last Friday.

Mr Howard admitted last night that it will not be possible to return any of the released prisoners to jail, whatever the outcome of a High Court battle this week over the legality of the early release programme.

The 537 inmates released before last Friday's sudden suspension of the programme come from a majority of the 138 prisons in England and Wales. They have been released on average three months early.

inside the Prison Service was being looked at. The Home Secretary accepted Mr Tilt's personal apology: "He has done a good job as director-general. Not every failure necessarily leads to resignation. I don't think this failure is a matter for resignation," said Mr Howard. "I have made it clear to him that I took a very serious view of what happened. I have accepted his personal apology."

'But if to marry is hopeful, divorce is more real'

Fifteen years ago the Poet Laureate John Betjeman recorded the joy of their wedding; today poet Michael Horowitz finds lines to mark their divorce

Excerpt from Betjeman's royal wedding poem: I'm glad that you are marrying at home Below Sir Christopher's embracing dome. Four square on that his golden cross and ball Complete our own Cathedral of St Paul.



Prince Charles: spending the day with his sons

Lines for British (& universal) subjects, occasioned by the divorce of Diana from Charles, August 28, 1996

"Three million jobless, and only One royal wedding" Rang the scornful chant from Inverness to Reading Cried by Thatcher's children athwart the chartered streets

A FEW strokes of an artist's pencil pen yesterday, an extra couple and it was done. Out went Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales. In came a new, free but more lovely spirit - Diana, Princess of Wales.

Both lost the right to be called HRH under the terms of their divorce settlements. But faster, crisper speed of thought made the English National Ballet the first in the land to use the new title. Diana will be known by it when her divorce absolute is confirmed today.

The company is the only British arts group with which Diana chose to retain links after the divorce nisi came through six weeks ago.

Prince Charles is due to spend the day with their sons at Balmoral, scene of the first public rift between the couple early in their marriage when the princess got bored with rustic ways and broke her holiday to visit London.

Advertisement for Virgin Direct Life Insurance, featuring the headline 'LIFE INSURANCE WHILE YOU WAIT' and contact information.

Table listing sections: Inside, Britain, World News, Finance, Sport, Comment and Letters, with page numbers 3, 7, 11, 16.

Sketch

Scan and scoff, free of prying eyes



Martin Linton

Breakfast will be wonderful this morning. I shall have two slices of Mother's Pride thick white toast, spread with Anchor butter and topped with three rashers of crispy Danish back bacon. The reason is that I have finally found a way of shopping that is completely shielded from the prying eyes of fellow shoppers. I just picked up something that looks like a mobile phone on the way into the supermarket, use it to scan the bar codes on all the goods I put into my trolley, plug it into a machine called an auto pay...

shopping into green boxes on my trolley and smuggle it through the checkout without letting anyone, even Laura on the checkout, see what I'm eating. There's one problem, though. Nine times out of 10 the auto pay point prints out the message "you don't need to be checked". That means you can just put in the plastic and walk through. But just occasionally you have to be re-scanned. If they find that you've made a mistake, then you'll be put on the re-scan for weeks. If the machine suspects you of shoplifting, it'll have your plastic off you. So you need to make sure you scan correctly. It's a status symbol if the machine accepts your honesty. "I haven't been scanned since before Christmas," says Gay Giles, of Reigate, proudly. "So a law you'll get checked this time," says Emma Mason of Safeways.

Mason admits the scanning system could be an obvious target for thieves but said the company had had no problems so far. "Psychologically, people don't go for the most obvious way of stealing. People who use this system have a high profile in the store and are therefore more conscious they are being watched. We are trusting our customers and it is paying dividends." The company claims it hasn't had any more shrinkage (its word for shoplifting) in the 47 shops that let you scan your own goods than in the 334 that don't. In other words, its shoppers, deep down, are honest. Mind you, the company's got their name and address. "It is a major deterrent and we carry out random checks," says Mason. And maybe customers should worry more about what the supermarket knows about them. Its computer can already analyse how much they spend on children's videos or mascara or beer. There's nothing that reveals more about a person than the weekly shopping bill. So how much longer will it be before they start to target mail with letters that start: "Dear Sir, As a regular purchaser of our corn pads, you may be interested in..." I think I'll pay cash.

Pilot: 'They are ordinary people, they need protection for their families.' Control: 'OK. That is understood'

Calm control ends hijack

AS THE Airbus A310 swept in from the south long before dawn, the landing lights at the end of Stansted airport's runway briefly illuminated the yellow and blue livery of Sudan Airways. Seconds later, at 4.28am, flight SU150 with 199 people touched down. On board were seven Iraqi hijackers and members of their families desperate to escape Saddam Hussein's regime. The men had seized the plane less than half an hour after take-off from Khartoum on Monday afternoon for a flight to Amman in Jordan. They refuelled at Larnaca in Cyprus and ordered the pilot and his crew of 13 to head for London, apparently

at gunpoint. When the British government heard of the hijackers' determination, it agreed to allow the aircraft to land. The Iraqis wanted to go to Heathrow but were diverted to Stansted - the UK's designated airport for receiving hijacked aircraft. Once on the tarmac, the aircraft taxied to an isolated stand in front of a massive hangar where the unfolding drama could be played out as the rest of the airport continued as normal. Armed police surrounded the jet and a fire tender stood by. Negotiations began at 5.10am with Chief Inspector Winston Bernard and two other trained negotiators in the control tower making contact by radio with the hijackers through the jet's pilot, Captain Abdel Hamid Hidirbi. Negotiations quickly

yielded their demands: they wanted representatives from the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and Mr Sadiq Sadah, of the Iraqi Community Association, to oversee their surrender. At 5.25am, while Metropolitan police tracked down Mr Sadah - an influential figure in the association, which helps expatriates with asylum applications - the door by the aircraft's cockpit opened and more than 200 media representatives watched steps being manoeuvred into place as dawn broke. By 6.24am, as the day's first scheduled flight from Corfu arrived, two women, in bright orange dresses, made their way down the steps, past three armed officers, and away towards the hangar. They were the first of several groups of women, children and the frail to be freed.

Throughout, negotiations were going on. At 7am, the pilot radioed: "They are not political... they are ordinary people, they have been persecuted by Saddam regime. They need protection for their families." The negotiator replied: "OK. Thank you for that. That is all perfectly understood and believed. Could they please release another batch in any case?" Just after 8am, police confirmed that between 70 and 80 hostages had been released. The 600 officers, with more than 20 armoured vehicles and cars, were more relaxed. Just after 9.20am, Chief Inspector Roger Grimwood said the softly softly policy was working and that 14 groups of 10 had been released. The total had reached 160 by 9.40am and they were being debriefed.

Two more women left the aircraft at 11.20am and 15 minutes later Mr Sadah arrived in the control tower - and the hijackers agreed to surrender. At 11.30am, negotiator told the pilot over the radio: "People must leave the aircraft one by one. Nobody else is to leave the aircraft until I say so. Understand OK?" The pilot replied: "Copy." Then the negotiator said: "They must come out slowly with their hands in front. If they are carrying any weapons or explosives they are to hold them out in front, place them at the bottom of the steps and leave them there." The pilot responded: "The hijackers will release their families first. Their families will leave first, their females and children." The first of the hijackers' families left the aircraft five

minutes later, a young mother and two small children nervously negotiating the bright blue steps with their hands on their heads. From then on, others emerged singly or with children at four- or five-minute intervals. By 12.37am, everyone was off the aircraft except the crew. At 1.20pm, the negotiator told the pilot: "Captain, before I tell you to come out, can I just say we think you've done a marvellous job and I think we owe you a large milkshake." He replied: "I do owe you a large thanks for being patient with us. And thank you very much for your co-operation." The crew carefully made their way off the plane, the last to leave being Captain Hidirbi. Largely unseen, he came down the steps and then he knelt and apparently kissed the ground.

The British are known to help. They've accepted asylum seekers before. If cases are studied by the authorities and given asylum, why not?



A firefighter at Stansted examines through binoculars the hijacked Sudanese airliner yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Review

The prat in the hat whips up a party

Garth Cartwright

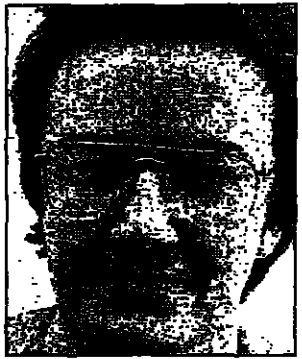
Jamiroquai Notting Hill Carnival. CARNIVAL allows for all kinds of celebration but the widest smile belongs to Jamiroquai's Jason Kay, a native son of west London whose band had headlining status. Kay is the wideboy of British pop, all mouth and hats, dogged by controversy since Jamiroquai's debut album entered the charts at No. 1 three years ago. Partly this is due to Sony promoting Jamiroquai in a multi-million pound package while so much black British music languishes underfunded. Kay's habit of being a walking talking contradiction has not helped: this is the environmentalist who spent his initial royalties on an Aston Martin. An appearance on The Girlie Show wearing one of his boxer shorts confirmed for many that he is the prat in the hat. Unfortunately, it is skin game that gets played most often with Kay: can white men sing black? This is irrelevant. Throughout this century there has been a two way traffic. Jimmie Rodgers learned from black musicians in the 1920s and was Howling Wolf's favourite singer. Wolf became the Rolling Stones' hero and they gave Wolf and his peers an international audience while influencing a generation of black and white musicians. What matters is whether a musician like Kay develops from his source material or remains a mimic. Kay's natural ability is un-

questionable but his song writing and arranging skills remain little more than Xerox of 1970s soul grooves. The 1988 remix of Space Cowboy by master DJ David Morales put Kay above a bubbling house beat and back in the charts. None of his new songs follows up that expertise. Jamiroquai, as much as Oasis, reflect British pop retro instincts with a sound based on one period of a more innovative talent from two or three decades ago. Jamiroquai headlined the Kiss FM stage at 6pm. Facing a sea of humanity, the nine-piece band were almost inaudible beneath the boom of sound systems and the hum of generators. Kay has proved a durable performer ever since acid jazz went belly up and with some slick disco moves the wide-brimmed, Artful Dodger of Britfunk whipped his band into motion and sang. Beyond all other reservations it is the joyous yelp of a voice that determines Jamiroquai's popularity. The choice of Jamiroquai to headline Kiss FM's stage was questioned by some. Kay has always been connected with the station yet there was reservations about the elevation of an essentially pop band with tough grooves over other artists more in tune with carnival's Afro-Caribbean synergy. But as twilight set in and thousands of whistles and horns blared to add a Latin London flavour to Jamiroquai's chunky guitar, brassy horns and didgeridoo I had to admit this westside player knows how to hold a party. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

UK seen as safe haven

Experts divided on the case for refugee status

THE Iraqi hijackers were widely assumed to have chosen London as their destination because of Britain's record as the principal safe haven for Middle Eastern political dissidents. As a member of the Iraqi Community Association in Britain put it yesterday: "The British are known to help in these matters. They have accepted asylum seekers before and if their cases are studied by the authorities and they are given asylum, why not?" Britain's record on asylum applications involving Iraqis fleeing Saddam Hussein's regime bears out its reputation as a safe haven for the Middle East. Iraq tops the list for the most successful asylum claims in Britain, with 45 per cent of those granted refugee status last year. Only the former Yugoslavia (20 per cent) and Iran (13 per cent) come close. A second factor is that nearly all asylum applications from Iraq are accepted. Since 1993 the refusal rate has remained at only 5 or 6 per cent of applications. This compares with an average refusal rate of 95 per cent for the rest of the world. The Home Office said yesterday that asylum seekers were given asylum, why not?



Nick Hardwick: 'Sending them back will mean death'

Conservative MPs insisted they should be sent back immediately to the Sudan as any concession would mean high-jacking was seen as an easy way to get asylum in Britain. But Nick Hardwick, head of the Refugee Council, said they should be tried and sentenced for hijacking in Britain first and then their asylum applications should be considered. "We have to act in the knowledge that sending them back will be a death sentence so it needs cool judgement taken when the legal processes have taken their course," he said. Mr Hardwick said the first consideration would be whether they qualified under the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees which excluded applications from those who had committed crimes against peace or humanity. "If somebody who has committed a hijacking was still entitled to protection under the 1951 convention, the Home Secretary would then have to take account of the individual circumstances of the case. "For example, whether they planned it for months or it was something they did on the spur of the moment because they were being recalled to face execution." Claude Moraes of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants was sceptical that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, would do anything other than "go through the motions" of considering asylum applications.

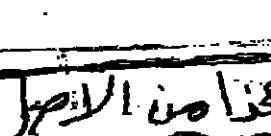
Refugees. People recognised as refugees by Britain, 1995: Iraq 570, Former Yugoslavia 285, Iran 165, Turkey 50, Other Middle East 50, Rest of world 175, Total 1295

London fixer who paved the way for exiles

Kathy Evans. HIS was a telephone number which could save your life. It was a kind of commodity passed by word of mouth among Iraqi families fleeing the regime of Saddam Hussein. If you are trying to come to London, then phone Sadiq Sadah at the Iraqi Community Association - he'll help you. The seven Iraqi nationals who two days ago hijacked a Sudanese airliner to seek asylum in Britain knew that

well-worn advice. When they landed at Stansted airport yesterday with nearly 200 passengers on board, it was Sadiq Sadah they asked for as their peacebroker. Mr Sadah was one of the first to escape from President Saddam's regime. Arriving as a student in the 1970s shortly after President Saddam came to power, he never returned to his home town of Basra. A few years later, he graduated with a doctorate in mathematics and statistics from Brunel University, north-west London. His early experiences as a refugee in Britain led him and a group of Iraqi exiles to found the Iraqi Community Association. Operating from a tiny office in Hammersmith staffed by volunteers, the organisation says it helps hundreds of Iraqis arriving in Britain each year to cope with asylum applications and social services. "Sadiq is a gentleman and no one who goes to him for help was ever turned away," said Laila, a London computer salesman who studied with Mr Sadah.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC NATIONAL STATE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR (Ministerio del Interior) Public, National and International Bid No 01/96 Full, indivisible contract of a service for the design, start up and support of a System of Migration Control and Identification of Individuals and of electoral information. Interested parties may ask for information and purchase bid specifications of Subsecretaría de Población (Under Secretariat of Population) of the Ministry of Interior, at Avenida Leandro N. Alem 168 - 5º Piso - Capital Federal, from Monday to Friday from 12:00 noon to 4:00 AM as of the 30th day of August of the year 1996. Value of the Bid Specifications: eighty thousand pesos (\$80.000). Bids shall be received at the Subsecretaría de Población of the Ministry of the Interior, located at Avenida Leandro N. Alem 168 - 5º Piso - Capital Federal, until 12:00 noon of the 25th day of October of the year 1996. The opening of bids shall be carried out the same day at 1:00 PM at the Subsecretaría de Población of the Ministry of the Interior



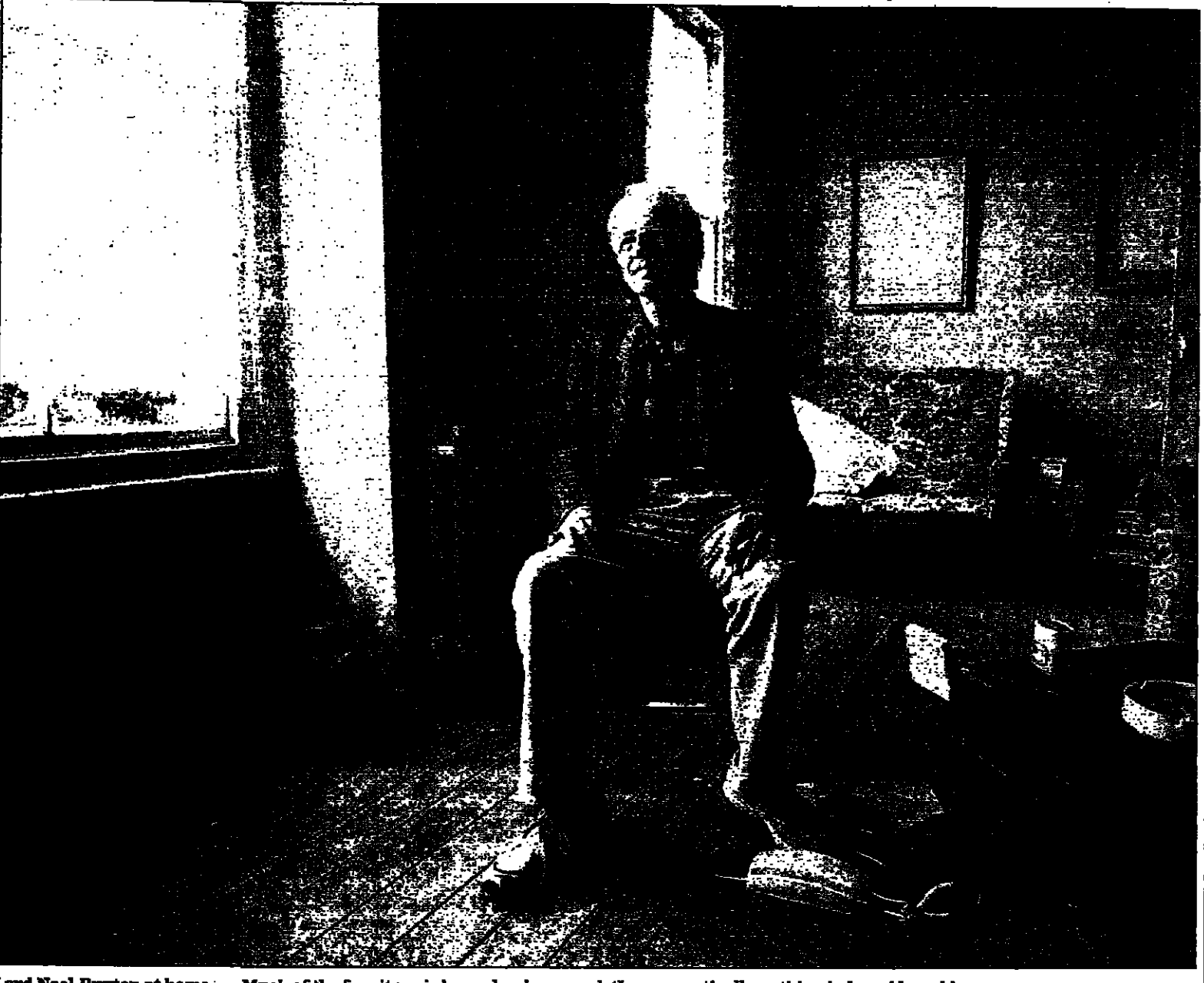
Charity keeps lord in 1-bed flat

James Melke and David Hencke on a fall from grace

HIS grandfather presided over agriculture policy for the first Labour government; his father was a lecturer and broadcaster who once waded across the Thames at Westminster. Yesterday Martin Noel-Buxton, third Baron Noel-Buxton, the penniless occupant of a one-bedroomed charity flat in a terraced house in Wandsworth, south London, explained how the family had fallen from cabinet seat to dowdy sofa.

The Tory peer, allocated the property because he was considered "vulnerable" by council housing officials — and bearer of the family motto "Do it with thy might" — spent 19 days in bed and breakfast accommodation before moving into the £53 a week flat.

"I am an alcoholic," he said. "I did not have very much money in the first place but I blew it. That is what you do when you are pissed. It was nothing very dramatic but I spent far too much." Lord Noel-Buxton, who said he first had treatment for his condition in 1981, has been married three times, divorced twice and separated from his third wife for more than two years. Pictures of his children, Charles, aged 21, a trainee insurance broker, Lucy, 19, on a gap year before university, and Antonio, six, rested on a gas fire. Most of the furniture, which included two sofas, a desk, a bed and a television, was "borrowed or begged — I own practically nothing in here". A picture of the first Labour Cabinet of 1924, in-



Lord Noel-Buxton at home... Much of the furniture is begged or borrowed. 'I own practically nothing in here,' he said

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

cluding his grandfather, hung on the wall. The stereo system was his, classical CDs, including Handel and Telemann, rested in boxes with other much-loved possessions. He applied for a council home before Christmas after staying in a flat "the other side of Battersea Park" owned by his first wife's husband. "Nothing in this is simple," he smiled. "He was doing me a favour. His son, my stepson, wanted to stay there." After staying with friends, he eventually went to bed and breakfast, the type of emergency accommodation councils use only as a last resort. But he was referred to the Peabody Trust, a charity with a tradition of helping London's "respectable" poor.

'I am incredibly lucky. I should be dead, under a bridge or insane'

"This is brilliant. I am incredibly lucky. I should be dead, under a bridge or insane. Only about 3 per cent of alcoholics make it into sobriety for any length of time. It is a story of recovery and heroism." Lord Noel-Buxton, who said he took his last alcoholic drink on October 10 1994, used mainly to drink strong lagers or vodka "because it didn't smell, as

few peers knew of his troubles. "I am not that close to anyone." Asked about his third wife, the peer replied: "Would you like to be married to an alcoholic?" He used the Lords, when sitting, for free meals, heating and lighting. Most days he went to Alcoholics Anonymous. "I can't work. It takes a lot of time to recover from a total disaster." Asked what he thought about a peer being in such a position, he said: "Look at Jamie Blandford [son of the Duke of Marlborough, who has been convicted of drugs offences] for Christ's sake. Do I have to say more? Can you see any rhyme or reason why I should be different by virtue of what my grandfather did?" Lord Noel-Buxton's career as a commercial solicitor in the City, and as a specialist in intellectual property, came to a virtual end in 1982 after he was convicted of drink-driving, although he remained a consultant to a Brighton firm until 1994. He spoke in the House of Lords in January, supporting a government bill overhauling arbitration procedures.

Clinton on right track as he steams ahead in polls

Merle Walker and Jonathan Freedland in Chicago

DEMOCRATS will nominate Bill Clinton for four more years in the White House tonight, buoyed by a new poll showing the president enjoying the traditional post-convention "bounce" before the gathering had really begun. Mr Clinton now leads his Republican rival Bob Dole by 15 points, boosting him by a 51-36 margin, according to an ABC News survey released last night. The poll confirms earlier figures indicating last week's rash of White House initiatives to raise the minimum wage, reform the welfare system and restrict tobacco sales have paid dividends. Analysts agreed that a highly-polished first day at the convention, coupled with his barrooming tour of Chicago across the Midwest, is fast replacing memories of the Republicans' slick convention at San Diego a fortnight ago. Pollsters predicted that

once the Democratic convention is over, Mr Clinton will return to the 30-plus points lead he enjoyed over Mr Dole most of the summer. On the eve of his arrival in Chicago, Mr Clinton launched a new education plan to train more teachers and raise adult literacy levels. He spent the day on his slow-moving "21st century express" train, a deliberate attention-grabbing maneuver to the hi-tech information convention centre in Chicago. Fearing a repeat of the boredom of the television networks with the made-for-TV Republican convention, the Clinton team devised the train trip — an idea pitched from the former president George Bush four years ago — as a beguiling mixture of news and nostalgia. The education initiative followed Monday's announcement of a new gun control measure, tailored to match the moving appearance of James and Sarah Brady on the convention platform. Mr Brady, the devoted press spokesman for President Reagan until permanently disabled by a bullet during



President Clinton makes a train stop to meet the people of Ohio

challengers could hardly match. The train ride has guaranteed blanket coverage in the local media of the important swing state of Ohio, and attracted thousands to small-town rallies. It also provided some felicitous moments of soft focus and human interest stories for the cameras. Not all of these were planned. At Wharton, Ohio, an elderly woman fainted in the crowd. Mr Clinton cleared a space for her to be helped on to his train, discovered that it was Retta Lafan Plott's 98th birthday, and led the crowd in singing "Happy Birthday". "It's been a long time since I made a girl faint," he told her, as the crowd roared and his daughter Chelsea laughed by his side. The tour has become an alternative focus for media attention and added a touch of suspense as Mr Clinton creeps towards his nomination through the forgotten heartland in a railroad car used in President Harry Truman's reelection campaign of 1948.

Democratic convention, page 6

Belgian police prepare to dig all night for 'five more bodies' in paedophile scandal

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BELGIAN police were last night involved in an intensive search for the bodies of up to five victims of a paedophile gang in the rubbish-strewn backyard of a house belonging to their chief suspect, Marc Dutroux, in a village near Charleroi in the south of the country. Scores of police officers cleared car parts and other

debris from behind a house in the village of Jumet before mechanical excavators, radar detection equipment and sniffer dogs could be used. Police also brought in Harry Janssen, a Dutch air-force lieutenant who is able to find bodies with his extraordinary sense of smell. Mr Janssen, who has most recently put his skill to work in Bosnia, pushes iron rods in the soil to trace bodies. "I smell the iron to see if there are

human remains in the neighbourhood," he said. The investigators fear that the bodies of An Marchal, aged 19, and her friend Beffe Lambrechts, aged 17, who Dutroux has admitted abducting near Ostend a year ago, may be buried at the site. As digging got under way last night, police said they would continue the operation through the night. Major Jean-Marie Boudin, the police spokesman, tried to

calm the latest rumours. "We are looking for anything that might be useful for our inquiry. Put your lives in the position of the parents and imagine how they must be feeling." An angry statement by Michel Bourlet, the magistrate leading the inquiry, denying that bodies were expected to be found, failed to dampen the speculation. Police have searched up to 12 houses thought to belong to

environmental reforms as Al Gore, the ecologically-minded vice president, speaks to the convention, with a blend of policy, power and presentation which his Republican

five bodies were buried at the property. He had previously claimed that he thought An and Beffe were alive, although no longer in the country. This prompted rumours that they might have been sold into prostitution in the Czech Republic or Slovakia. Dutroux and nine alleged associates, including his wife and a police traffic inspector, have so far been arrested on various charges.

Each school to get own exam target

John Carol Education Editor

THE Government is preparing to tighten its grip on the education service and tackle chronic under-achievement by setting individual targets for every school to be based on a given percentage uplift in a school's previous performance in tests or exams. It was understood the targets would be set according to type of school and the socio-economic background of its intake. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, wants to calculate the standard to be expected in each one of England's 25,000 primary and secondary schools after assessing the educational, social and economic background of its pupils. Inner city comprehensive schools would not be expected to match the performance of suburban grammar schools, but their teachers and governors would be instructed to work out for themselves how to achieve goals tailored to their circumstances. The Office for Standards in Education would then be able to focus the scrutiny of school inspectors more closely on establishments failing to reach their improvement targets. It was unclear last night whether Mrs Shephard thought her officials could work out the targets centrally, or whether the job would be delegated to local education authorities. Either way, the performance targets would be geared — locally and regionally — to deliver the national education targets for 2000. These include the achievement of at least five GCSEs at grade C or above by at least 85 per cent of people by the age of 19, and two A levels or the vocational equivalent by 60 per cent of people by the age of 21. Schools and regions already meeting those standards would be expected to over-achieve to allow leeway for others.

tendance and discipline which may be announced in her speech to the Conservative Party conference. "Next month I shall be making an announcement about target-setting in schools," Mrs Shephard said yesterday. Targets would be drawn up for all individual schools. Officials said the targets would not be based on a given percentage uplift in a school's previous performance in tests or exams. It was understood the targets would be set according to type of school and the socio-economic background of its intake. The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority is about to start a pilot to establish the value added by individual schools to children's education. The study will compare the input of educational, social and economic attributes of pupils entering with the output in terms of academic results achieved. Graham Lane, Labour education chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said Mrs Shephard was right to want schools to set improvement targets, but wrong if she thought they could be imposed by central government. "We started target-setting in the London borough of Newham 10 years ago. We had 7 per cent of our young people achieving at least five GCSE passes at grades A to C and we said this should rise to 20 per cent by 1992. This year we reached 25 per cent and our target for 1995 is 35 per cent. "We did this by working in partnership with schools, setting achievable targets. I do not want Mrs Shephard going around setting stupid targets that people cannot reach. Targets are right, but centralism is wrong." Mrs Shephard said she is considering a merger of the exam boards into two or three closely monitored consortiums which could not lower pass marks to attract business. Dennis Hatfield, chairman of the joint council for the GCSE, questioned the government's power to compel mergers. "If a big board was being shut out they might consider it necessary to fight," he said.

Exam board merger ordered, page 4

Legal ruling saves Lloyd's

Pauline Springett

THE survival of one of the pillars of the City looked assured last night after the troubled world of London insurance market won the right to go ahead with a £3.2 billion rescue package to stave off its collapse. The fourth circuit US Court of Appeals overturned an injunction last Friday by a federal judge in Virginia which had effectively blocked the rescue. Yesterday's legal victory was crucial for the 306-year-old Lloyd's market because the deadline for its \$4,000 investment, known as Names, to accept the package is noon today. If the injunction had been upheld, Lloyd's would have been forced to delay the settlement deal for a vital two months. It had warned that such a delay might plunge it into insolvency. Despite this, the judge in Virginia ruled that Lloyd's had violated US securities laws by failing to provide enough information about the rescue settlement to Names. He had ordered Lloyd's to provide the additional information and to give the US Names enough time to digest it. David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, said: "The decision removes the remaining major legal obstacle to implementation of the reconstruction plan. It is clear that the vast majority of Names have not allowed themselves to be deterred from accepting the offer by the uncertainty generated by these court proceedings." Mr Rowland appealed

to any Name who had not yet accepted the offer to fax Lloyd's at once. He said 82 per cent of its Names had accepted the deal, including 85 per cent of the 2,700 US Names. That percentage is likely to rise sharply after yesterday's legal victory. Lloyd's appears set to announce that the offer is unconditional after its ruling council meets tomorrow. Lloyd's devised the settlement offer after it was hit by losses of nearly £8 billion during 1988 to 1992. The losses brought the market to its knees, financially crippling many investors and driving some to suicide. At one stage the crisis looked set to envelop the government after it emerged that about 50 Tory MPs had large Lloyd's losses. The losses were caused by disasters in 1980, such as the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Hurricane Hugo and the Piper Alpha oil rig explosion. Losses also continue to pour into the market from US asbestos and pollution claims. The rescue deal is designed to compensate the Names for their losses. The rescue also involves the setting up of Equitas, a reinsurance company which will take over the market's old loss-making claims. The Names will pay a premium to reinsure their old liabilities into Equitas and agree never to sue Lloyd's again. In return they will be able to quit the market safe in the knowledge that they will almost certainly never have to pay Lloyd's another penny.

Notebook, page 11

"Ni peng! Nee Wom! We are the Knights Who Say 'Ni'!"
INCLUDES THE MISSING 24 SECONDS
MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL OUT NOW TO BUY ON VIDEO
MONTY PYTHON THE HOLY GRAIL

Exam board merger ordered by Shephard to protect standards

John Carvel
Education Editor

The Government yesterday served notice on the examination boards that they should merge into two or three conglomerates to stem allegations of a competitive devaluation of level and GCSE standards.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said she wanted to remove any suspicion that the six boards may be gradually lowering the pass standard for each grade in order to attract business from each other.

The A level pass rate this year further increased by 1.8 per cent to 85.8 per cent. The

GCSE pass rate at grades A*, C increased by 1 per cent to 53.7 per cent. Critics allege that schools are shopping around to raise their position in league tables by picking the easiest exams.

"I do not think the case for total change has been proved, but there is disquiet at the effect of having a wide range of exam boards. We are discussing that," said Mrs Shephard.

She added that she did not want to "nationalise" the examination system — "which is what one monolithic examination board under government control would amount to" — but there were alternatives to the fragmented status quo and a monolith.

"A midway point might be to reduce the number of bodies by merging them into

two or three", thus making it easier to control standards. The Government had power to influence the outcome because it could withhold validation from any board not meeting ministers' requirements, she said.

"The purpose of an exam is to show what candidates can achieve, but I don't think we expect everybody to pass every exam."

"People have to be rigorous in defining excellence of achievement. I am determined that exam boards should deliver that, and we will see to it that they do."

Mrs Shephard's intervention came as she presented an analysis of this year's results, including an improvement in the pass rate for advanced General National Vocational

Qualifications (GNVQ) which is announced by the awarding bodies today.

Results overall were the best ever, and teachers and their pupils should be congratulated. "It is, however, the case that we still have a long way to go to meet the national targets, and we still need to be ferociously vigilant in maintaining the value of the exam currency," she said.

For GNVQs, after criticism last year that too many students were dropping out of the two year course, the awarding bodies have changed the format of the results. The number of students getting full vocational awards increased by more than 80 per cent to 81,761, they said.

At advanced level, 57.7 per

cent of those entering their final year got a full award equivalent to at least two A levels; another 21.4 per cent achieved six or more units, equivalent to one A level. This amounted to a "pass rate" of 79 per cent, compared with 65 per cent last year.

However, education department officials are concerned that the figures gave no indication of how long candidates took to qualify or how many dropped out in the first year.

Mrs Shephard said she was undismayed by threats from some primary school governors to disrupt her plans to publish national performance tables showing the results of tests at age 11. About 70 per cent of schools have already sent in results of this year's teacher assessments.

Teachers threaten strike to keep boy out



Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

TEACHERS at a junior school have voted to strike to force the expulsion of a boy aged 10 in the latest in a series of confrontations over deteriorating classroom discipline.

Matthew Wilson threatened other pupils with a baseball bat and was expelled twice by the head teacher for a series of incidents, claimed members of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers.

The dispute is jeopardising the start of term for more than 200 children, aged seven to 11, at Manton junior school in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, and comes as an embarrassment to Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, who has been promoting stronger discipline in schools but has few powers to intervene in this case.

The governors twice overruled the head teacher when he permanently excluded the boy last term. Their decisions "bordered on the perverse", said Nigel

de Gruchy, the union's general secretary.

Eileen Bennett, chairwoman of the governors, admitted the boy was a challenge. "He is quite a nice bright boy if you speak to him but it has been blown up out of proportion. I think that this boy is being used as a scapegoat. It is a battle of wills between the staff and the governors and nobody has taken account of the boy."

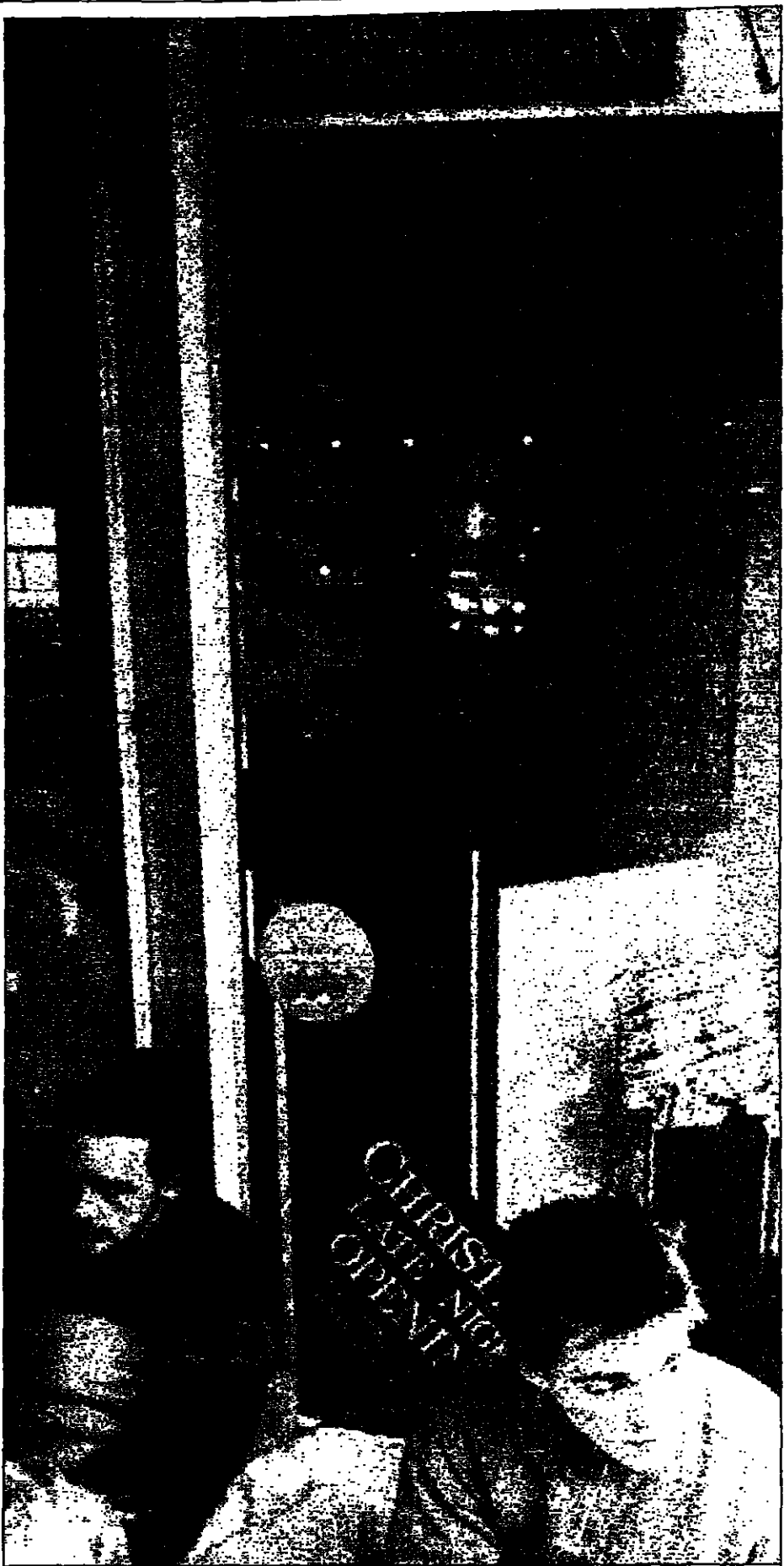
Teachers at a school in Halifax, West Yorkshire, have also voted to strike if they are asked to teach a girl aged 13 who was ex-

pelled last term after allegedly scuffling with a teacher and another pupil.

The expulsion was overturned by the local education authority and the girl is expected to return to the 700-pupil Ridings school next week. NASUWT staff unanimously voted for strike action.

However, the union's deputy general secretary, Samon O'Kane, said action was not now expected. "I believe the girl will be taught by the head teacher, and if that's the case, while it's not an ideal situation it will avoid strike action."

Matthew Wilson: 'threatened other pupils'



Dossing down in a shop doorway in the Strand, central London

London's dossers affect tourism, warns charity

James Meikle
Community Affairs Editor

THE sight of people sleeping rough on the streets is damaging Britain's tourist trade, a charity for the homeless said yesterday.

More than a million visitors to London — bringing £1 billion a year in foreign earnings — may have their holidays spoiled by the experience, according to St Mungo's, which shelters nearly 1,000 people a night in the capital.

Its frank economic message is rare coming from the voluntary sector, but echoes John Major's remarks two years ago over the damage beggars did to the holiday trade. The remarks brought outrage from charities and the Opposition, but more recently Trevor Nunn, the next artistic director of the Royal National Theatre, said that in parts of London "every doorway now houses a shivering blanket-huddled

homeless person". Some districts were so repellent "no person of sound mind" would pay money in search of entertainment there — not just St Mungo's commissioned an NOP poll that said one in six tourists thought the sight of people sleeping rough spoiled their holiday, four in 10 thought the experience would put others off visiting London, and about four in 10 thought the situation in London worse than in their capital.

Charles Fraser, the charity's director, said: "This proves that we should devote more resources to tackling homelessness — not just because it is right, but because it is in our economic interest. "Foreign tourists spend more than £5 billion a year in London. Anything which puts them off coming costs us dearly. This survey shows that homelessness hits our pockets as well as our hearts."

He appealed for private enterprise to match the multi-million pound, six-year effort

by the Government that initially reduced the number of people sleeping rough from more than 1,000 to around 350 in central London. The number has hardly changed over the last two years, as voluntary groups and government agencies have tried to tackle a hard core of people, many addicted to drink and drugs or suffering from mental health problems, who are reluctant to use emergency shelters.

The London Tourist Board said yesterday that it had not recorded "any significant level" of complaints during its annual surveys of tourist opinion, but it was concerned that many homeless people were put in bed and breakfast accommodation when the capital had a severe shortage of cheap hotels suitable for tourists.

The Department of the Environment said that figures for those sleeping rough in London had gone down since 1990 — "the only documented decrease in any capital city of which we are aware".

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Use of CS gas against woman is defended

Police justify using spray after fears for baby and two children

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

POLICE yesterday defended the use of CS gas sprays in incidents involving a mother who violently resisted giving up her baby in a care order case, and two disruptive children in a local authority home.

The incidents came to light after Home Secretary Michael Howard's decision to approve use of the spray nationally.

The incidents were raised yesterday by Middlesbrough councillor Bob Pitt and by Liberty. Both have called for a joint police-social services inquiry into use of the spray.

The incident involving the mother and baby took place in May when Cleveland police were asked to assist social services over a protection order for a child "at risk of significant harm".

The mother, a police spokesman said yesterday, punched a policewoman and lay on top of her child when the spray was used. Police had feared for the safety of the baby, who suffers no harm. The mother was taken to hospital as a precaution but suffered no serious harm.

In the second incident, last week, a girl aged 13 and a boy of 14 had been causing damage and disruption in a local authority home when police were called by social workers because of fears that they might seriously harm themselves. The girl had already been to hospital that day for a self-inflicted injury.

When officers arrived the children had barricaded themselves in a room and smashed windows. They were seen to be bleeding when they were restrained after officers had climbed a fire escape. Social services accepted that

it was a "dire" emergency, the spokesman said.

On each occasion the sprays had been used in accordance with the guidelines of the Association of Chief Police Officers, which stipulate that they should be employed when there is risk of serious violence or harm, the spokesman said.

Pitt, who raised the issue yesterday with a call for an inquiry, said that questions had to be asked as to the use of the spray. It was meant to be used primarily for self-defence, not merely to control.

Liberty's campaign co-ordinator, Liz Parratt, said: "We have called for the spray to be withdrawn since the day it was first used and will continue to do so."

Mr Howard gave permission for the sprays to be used throughout England and Wales from last week. Two forces, Surrey and Hertfordshire, are not satisfied with the Home Office approved spray and are not putting it into service.

مكتبة القرآن



Eigg residents and prospective owners of their island show visitors what they condemn as the legacy of neglect by absentee landlords PHOTOGRAPH BY WUPDO M&P/500

'Barmy' islanders in £2m scramble to buy their Eigg

Erlend Clouston on a pioneering plan to rid a Hebridean isle of its absentee owners

TWO-and-a-half centuries after the Stuarts landed in the Hebrides, the islanders of Eigg yesterday launched a similar revolution. Under the slogan Let's Crack It, the 32 residents announced details of a plan to raise £2 million to buy their 7,400 acre heather covered home and its 17 properties for themselves. Or almost for themselves. For unlike the Jacobites they have the support of a state body, the Highland Council, which has joined them and the Scottish Wild Life Trust in a partnership which will be watched by other rural communities burdened with absentee landlords.

Over the last 150 years, Eigg — 10 miles off the mainland — has changed hands nine times, and this month it was put back on the market for £2 million by Marlin Eckhart, a Stuttgart artist who has owned it for just 16 months. The islanders hope a public appeal will raise £500,000 to complement the £1 million-plus they are confident of receiving from the National Lottery Heritage Memorial Fund. Consultants to the council will soon present lottery administrators with a business plan that includes developments in forestry, infrastructure and green tourism. "We would be a demon-

stration project for the whole of Europe on the management of a fragile site that people want to see but don't want to destroy." Nick Reiter, the council's head of policy and research, said after hosting a tour of sites illustrating the grim consequences of successive landlords' failure to grant leases.

In the small corrugated iron shed that is Eigg's post office and shop, proprietor Mark Cherry complained about the pits and dams. At Kildonan farmhouse, Colin Carr said it was impossible to invest in fencing and buildings with no security of tenure. Four families had allegedly been refused 90 per cent home improvement grants for the same reason.

With three sites of special scientific interest, 470 plant and 170 bird species, Eigg is relying heavily on donations from nature lovers. But the appeal will also be aimed at expatriate Hebrideans in North America, which has an Eigg Mountain in Quebec and an Eigg village in Ontario. Subscribers' names will be engraved in a Book of Eigg.

Time is critical: two prospective buyers have inspected the island and may, or may not, be deterred by the fact that the Rolls-Royce of the previous owner, Keith Schellenberg, was destroyed in a mysterious fire — prompting him to denounce his neighbours as "rotten, dangerous and totally barmy revolutionaries". Donations can be sent to the Eigg Trust, Isle of Eigg, PE2 4RL. Credit card contributions will be received on 0131 226 4242.



Former owner Keith Schellenberg, whose Roller was wrecked

Threat of more strikes as rail services are ravaged

TRAIN crews at nine rail companies are to begin voting tomorrow on a growing campaign of strikes over productivity pay and breaks after yesterday's walkouts ravaged seven rail operators' services, writes Seumas Milne. Passengers faced emergency timetables and replacement buses in the North West, North East, Scotland and Wales. The companies admitted that most services had to be cancelled in the dispute with guards, conductors and catering staff organised by the Rail, Maritime and Transport union. The union's executive is expected to call more strikes later this week. Yesterday's stoppage,

which followed a walkout last Friday, proved more disruptive than expected. The dispute has highlighted the vulnerability to industrial action of the newly-privatised operators — with tight service contracts — while leaked documents show the state-owned BR subsidiaries are subject to strict government controls on their negotiating terms. Two privatised operators, InterCity East Coast and Great Western Trains, have already settled with the RMT, paying up to £10 a week for productivity gains. But senior British Rail executives say privately they cannot allow subsidiaries to increase labour costs before they are brought to market.

Mr X in move to gain legal recognition as a father Transsexual's plea to European court

Stephen Bates
European Affairs Editor

A BRITISH transsexual, born a woman, launched a case against the Government at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg yesterday to secure legal recognition as the father of a child born to his wife.

The man, known only as X to the court, wants the right to register the child born to his partner nearly four years ago. The couple have been in a stable relationship since 1979, though unable formally to marry since the law does not recognise a sex change operation as altering biological nature and a couple technically of the same sex cannot marry.

The child was conceived through artificial insemination by donor with the agreement of a hospital's ethics committee but X was not allowed to register as the father. Although the child now bears his surname, the birth certificate has been left

blank in the space for the father's name.

The man was in court yesterday to hear legal submissions to the international panel of judges from lawyers representing him, the British government and the European Commission of Human Rights.

The commission, which advises the court, believes the man's treatment violates the European Convention of Human Rights. Article 8 guarantees a right to privacy and family life without interference from public authorities.

The article states that the only permissible interference by government is in the interests of national security, public safety, the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, the protection of health and morals and the protection of others' rights and freedoms.

The application is not the first to come before the court concerning transsexuals, but it is the first to cite article 8, moving the argument about the legal recognition of a

change of sex on to new though more limited grounds than before.

In a case in 1990, involving the model Caroline Cossey, who was born a man, the court ruled that her legal rights had not been infringed because the authorities refused to alter her birth certificate to register her later change of sex and enable her to marry, because in all other respects her rights were respected.

But in a ruling last year involving a French woman who had been born a man, the court ruled that her rights had been violated because the authorities had insisted on the maintenance of her former masculine status on all personal documents, including cheque books and identity card.

If the judges find that X's rights have been infringed the Government may be forced to pay compensation laid down by the court and be honour bound to change the law next year.

A ruling is not expected for four or five months.

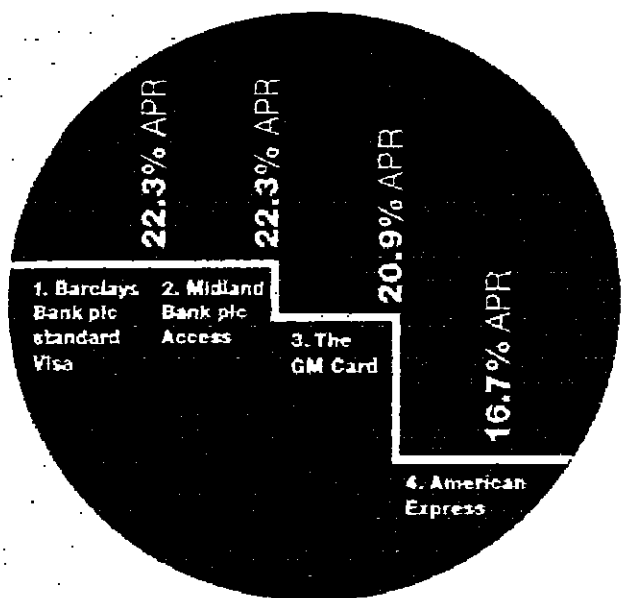
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DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION: President prepares to blow his own trumpet in 'windy city' . . . as does running mate

Clinton's record to do the talking

Martin Walker in Chicago

BILL CLINTON will tomorrow night accept the Democratic nomination with the claim that he has kept his promises.

Four years ago he pledged to get the economy moving with 8 million new jobs, to halve the budget deficit, to "send welfare as we know it", to provide a middle class tax cut, to reform healthcare, to control guns and to be tough on crime.

He vowed "to focus like a laser beam on domestic problems and above all to provide the education and training programmes that would equip worried Americans for the challenge of global competition. This has been his worst failure."

Internationally, he promised to stop "coddling tyrants in Beijing", to try to end the Balkan war with an airlift of weapons to Bosnia and airstrikes against the Serbs, and not to pass the North American Free Trade Agreement unless there were social safeguards for American jobs and the environment.

His record is better than most. There has been no middle class tax cut, a falling rate on which the Republicans are focusing. But there have been tax credits for the working poor to bring them close to the average industrial wage.

He has over-performed on the deficit. When he came into office, the 1993 federal budget deficit had been revised up from \$270 billion (\$180 billion) to \$290 billion and was forecast to grow to \$360 billion by 1996. But the deficit is down to \$127 billion, helped by economic growth and higher than expected revenues. Moreover, the consequent fall in interest rates gave a \$150 billion stimulus to the economy far more than the promised tax cut.

THE most signal failure has been his health reform bill, which suffered ignominious defeat when Congress was still Democrat-controlled. But last week, with Republican support, he enacted a more modest health bill which meets the needs of the employed. Workers will be able to keep health insurance if they change or lose jobs, and are guaranteed cover even for pre-existing ailments. While this does nothing for the 35 million Americans without health insurance, it satisfies the majority of those who voted Democrat out of concern for healthcare.

He has more than fulfilled his employment pledge, with 10.2 million new jobs. With the taming of inflation to around 3 per cent and a similar GDP growth rate, this is

the best economic performance of any G7 country, although too many jobs are part-time or poorly-paid.

Mr Clinton has indeed been tough on crime, expanding and upgrading the use of the death penalty, allowing juveniles to be tried and imprisoned as adults for violent crimes, and funding an extra 100,000 police and the biggest "send welfare as we know it" programme in American history. He has enacted the "three strikes and you're out" law, which mandates life imprisonment after a third crime, and passed a gun control law requiring a five-day wait before buying a handgun, and outlawing the best-known assault weapons.

He has also ended welfare, not only "as we know it" but as President Franklin Roosevelt knew it when he first proclaimed the New Deal at another Democratic convention in Chicago in 1932. To the dismay of most traditional Democrats, Mr Clinton last week ended the 61-year-old tradi-

The president can claim to have cast the US as linchpin and guarantor of a free-trading global economy

tion that the federal government would in the last resort provide for impoverished mothers and children.

The new welfare law allows a lifetime maximum of five years on welfare for anyone, and a two-year maximum at any one time. It transfers responsibility for welfare from the federal government to the states, and many Democrats now fear a race towards the meanest level of provision. Even the man who will today nominate President Clinton, the party chairman, Senator Chris Dodd, has condemned the measure, which has strained party loyalty.

Welfare was the one area where Mr Clinton was not able (even if he had wished) to stall and defeat the expected Republican surge after the Democrats lost control of both houses of Congress in the 1994 mid-term elections, in what was seen then as a humiliation.

But in retrospect the over-ambitious "Republican revolution" looks more like his greatest asset. By portraying them as extremists intent on destroying Medicare for the elderly, and by standing firm against their threat to close down the government, Mr Clinton was belatedly able to define himself, less by what he stood for than by his opposition to the Republican

agenda. In the process, he won back his party's allegiance.

The Clinton administration is likely to be remembered most for an internationalist strategy barely discussed on the campaign trail. By passing the North American Free Trade Agreement and the GATT treaty, despite the opposition in his party, he has become the free trade president.

WITH the Free Trade Association of the Americas for the western hemisphere, the Asia-Pacific economic summits for the Pacific rim, and the Madrid agreement with the European Union, he can claim to have cast the US as the linchpin and guarantor of a free-trading global economy. Despite provocative threats to his allies' trade with Cuba, Iran and Libya, his free trade strategy is replacing the militarist character of US leadership and international engagement during the cold war.

He can claim to have restored a bumpy democratic rule to Haiti, helped maintain it in Russia, and to have imposed a fragile peace in Bosnia with the politically risky commitment of 20,000 US troops. His peace missions have made some progress in Northern Ireland and the Middle East.

Just like President George Bush, he has finally, after bluster and Taiwanese accusations, settled for coddling the dictators of Beijing. But Mr Clinton has succeeded beyond any predecessor in bringing down Japan's trade surplus, and persuading Tokyo into a deeper security partnership. With some spirited personal diplomacy, he secured the final withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states, and the scrapping of the nuclear arsenals of Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The question of Nato expansion, however, is still unsettled.

In many ways, Mr Clinton's achievements look surprisingly similar to what Mr Bush might have accomplished in a second term: fiscal prudence, modest reform and social reforms and a world shaped to the preferences of its last superpower.

Mr Clinton's achievements have been more those of a traditional Republican than a Democrat. The challenge of his probable second term will be to provide education, skills and training for ordinary Americans, whose real incomes have been stagnant for over 20 years and whose jobs are increasingly insecure.

Mr Clinton is the moderate Republican who deserves re-election: only then will we know if he can govern as a Democrat.



Bobbie Bostic, aged 34, is frisked before entering the designated protest area outside the convention hall yesterday. She was demonstrating against the Illinois children and family services department, which took her daughter into care after alleged abuse. PHOTOGRAPH: DAMIAN DOVARGANES

Campaigners' thoughts turn to Kemp v Gore in 2000



Jonathan Freedland in Chicago

WHEN the vice-president, Al Gore, addresses the Democratic convention tonight he will be launching his own campaign — for the top job in 2000.

Despite Mr Gore's protestations to the contrary, most Democrats agree that such a campaign exists and is stepping into high gear in Chicago.

are making a similar observation about Bob Dole's running mate, Jack Kemp. The current war of the running mates could well be a dress rehearsal for the next presidential election.

Mr Gore has been touching the key party bases this week, addressing Jewish and trade union groups in a single day. He is also the only Democrat with two prime-time spots at the convention. Tomorrow he will formally introduce the president, and tonight he will play the

traditional running mate role of "attack dog", nunchucking on the ankles of Messrs Dole and Kemp.

Mr Gore's aides boast that their man is the most influential vice-president in US history, with responsibility for reducing the government payroll, environmental policy, relations with Russia and space research. He has loyalists in key positions, including Peter Knight, the official chairman of the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign.

Such influence has enabled him to sideline potential rivals, including the Democrats' leader in the House of Representatives, Richard Gephardt. Mr Gephardt will meet all 50 state party delegations next week in his bid for 2000 — but he was granted only a brief speaking slot at the convention, shown by the main television networks.

Supporters say Mr Gore's position for 2000 is almost unassailable, even if Mr Clinton loses in November. He is unlikely to be blamed for defeat, and has care-

fully kept his distance from some of the administration's signal failures. His personal life is apparently pristine and his emphasis on new technology should be in tune with the new millennium.

Only his lack of charisma remains a stubborn problem.

Jack Kemp, by contrast, is an electrifying campaigner — making October's televised vice-presidential debate a genuine contest and a real cause for concern in Mr Gore's team.

Mr Kemp's chief challenge in 1996 is not to upstage the lacklustre Bob Dole.

Analysts are describing the Republican running mate the same way they described Al Gore in 1992, saying he is in a win-win situation. He either ends up as vice-president or as his party's front-runner for 2000.

But one banner-waver at a rally was looking much further ahead, backing Mr Clinton's teenage daughter with the proclamation "Chelsea in 2016".



Al Gore: 'Most influential vice-president in history'

Japanese offer 'Midas touch' to Latin America

Asian investment is giving the economy a boost, writes Phil Gunson in Mexico City

as more than a source of raw materials.

The Japanese prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, is on a 10-day tour of five Latin American countries, the first such visit in seven years. Mexico and Chile were the first stops, followed by Brazil, Peru and Costa Rica. The aim is to boost trade and investment and to further Japan's increasingly outward-looking foreign policy.

Mr Hashimoto will be looking for support for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. President Kim Young Sam of South Korea, who like Mr Hashimoto will be accompanied by business leaders, is due to visit the region early next month.

The so-called "lost decade" of the 1980s, when the continent was in debt and economic recession, caused a drop in Japanese trade and investment, but both are now on the increase again.

After the United States, Japan is the region's biggest trading partner and since the early 1990s it has invested nearly \$60 billion (\$38 billion)

in Latin America. In Mexico, Japan is the fourth largest foreign investor.

Tijuana is home to 122 Japanese assembly plants, employing almost 30,000 Mexicans. So dependent has the city become on the Japanese presence that the kidnap of Sanyo video components, sent a shudder through the community.

"If we don't give them security," the chairman of the local chamber of commerce told Proceso magazine, "they'll leave. And if that happens we'll have a recession worse than the 1930s."

After payment of a large ransom, Mr Konno was released shortly before the Japanese prime minister arrived, but Mr Hashimoto began his speech at the banquet in Mexico City with a call for better security.

News in brief

Israeli demolition angers Palestinians

ISRAELI fuelled Palestinian anger yesterday by lifting a bulldozer over the walls of Jerusalem's Old City to demolish an Arab community centre, and approving the expansion of a West Bank settlement.

The Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, summoned foreign envoys and urged them to put pressure on Israel to stop demolitions. Palestinian legislators rushed to the Old City to lead the protests.

A Jerusalem municipal spokeswoman said the unfinished building, intended by Palestinians as a community centre, had been erected without a permit. Police sealed off a section of the walls and brought in a crane to hoist a bulldozer over the top. It could not pass through the city's gates.

Meanwhile, the government said it had approved a new neighbourhood at the Kiryat Sefar Jewish settlement in the West Bank. The Maariv newspaper said 800 of the 1,800 new homes would be built in the first stage. — Reuter.

Leader comment, page 8

Racists' top killer guilty

AN apartheid-era police official who once called himself South Africa's most efficient assassin was convicted on 88 of 121 charges by a Pretoria supreme court judge yesterday.

Eugene de Kock, aged 48, could receive life sentences for six murder convictions. Other convictions include two for conspiracy to murder, one for attempted murder, one for abduction, one for manslaughter, nine for illegal possession of weapons and 66 for fraud. He will be sentenced on September 16.

He is the most senior policeman convicted of crimes against state opponents. — AP.

Poisoning hits Greek cruise

FOUR people, including two children, were taken to hospital in Crete yesterday after food poisoning hit 800 passengers on a cruise around the Greek islands.

The illness broke out on the 28,137-tonne Costa Riviera, owned by Costa Crociere in Genoa, and operated by a Greek company. The junior health minister, Fragilios Paspaliadis, told reporters: "Of the 800 people affected, around 300 had stronger symptoms but the situation is less serious than reported."

He said the ship had not taken on food or water in any Greek port. — Reuter.

US financier jailed in Cuba

The fugitive American financier Robert Vesco, who has been on the run from United States justice for nearly 25 years, was jailed for 13 years by a Havana court on Monday for economic crimes in Cuba.

Vesco, aged 60, has lived in Cuba for the last 14 years. He was found guilty of fraud and illegal economic activity while developing a so-called wonder drug against cancer and AIDS. — Reuter.

Rifkind in Pakistan

The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, began talks in Pakistan yesterday expected to cover efforts to clinch a global nuclear test ban treaty, and the Kashmir dispute. — Reuter.

Nuns stay silent on who will replace ailing Mother Teresa

Suzanne Goldenberg in Calcutta

AS AN ailing Mother Teresa remains confined to a Calcutta hospital bed, there is one question on everyone's mind, if not on their lips: who will succeed her?

Her Missionaries of Charity order considers such questions too distressing to be shared with outsiders. So great is her influence that even senior Roman Catholic Church leaders are wary of discussing the future of her congregation.

But the succession question surfaced last week when she fell ill with malaria fever and heart failure. Yesterday doctors said her health had improved slightly, and she was breathing unassisted.

Her order holds its general meeting in a few months. Mother Teresa, aged 86, had won special permission from the Vatican to serve beyond two terms as General Superior.

Among the sisters, retirement is not a suitable topic for discussion. "That's our own private business," said Sister Priscilla Lewis, one of the more senior nuns. "Ours is for those who fall by the wayside — the poorest of the poor."

orders take a more professional approach to charity. Unlike the Missionaries, they accept only university graduates and work to overcome poverty rather than soften its ravages.

In recent years, the Missionaries' reluctance to redefine the notion of good work has drawn criticism. Doctors and volunteers from the West are often shocked by the squalid conditions of the order's homes, and its exhortation that the poor accept their state misery with grace.

Also questioned have been the lack of medicine and the re-use of syringes at Nirmal Hriday, the home for the dying, and the failure to segregate tuberculosis and mental patients at other shelters. Slowly, the order has begun to consider these concerns.

During the lifetime of Mother Teresa, this development approach did not come but I think her successor will move into that stage," said Father Valerian Nasareth, the parish priest of St Thomas' in central Calcutta and the director of the church's development programme.

However, change will not be automatic. "We don't do development work," said Sister Priscilla. "Ours is for those who fall by the wayside — the poorest of the poor."

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The OSCE's decision is likely to avert polling day clashes but fuel confusion over the exit of Nato forces, writes Julian Borger in Sarajevo

Bosnian local elections delayed

BOSNIA'S municipal elections were postponed yesterday when a United States diplomat supervising the poll ruled that "widespread abuse" had compromised the voter registration process.

Political and military analysts said the decision would reduce the threat of polling day clashes but almost certainly prolong large-scale involvement of Nato forces in the region.

Robert Frowick, the ambassador for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is refereeing the September 14 elections, called off the vote for local councils despite fierce opposition from the Serbs, who argued that the election guidelines in the Dayton peace agreement had been "seriously distorted".

The Republika Srpska press agency, SRNA, yesterday described the decision as "undemocratic" and quoted the Bosnian Serb deputy prime minister, Miroslav Vjestica, as saying the municipal vote would go ahead.

Mr Frowick said an independently organised poll would not be legitimate under the Dayton accord. He confirmed that parallel ballots for national and regional government would go ahead on schedule, and added that Dayton allowed for local elections only "if feasible".

OSCE officials argued that by delaying the local poll, the effects of a Serb separatist campaign to coerce Serb voters to register in the Serb ethnic "homeland", Republika Srpska, would be minimised.

Evidence gathered by election and human rights monitors suggests Croat separatists have pursued a similar policy though on a smaller scale.

Senior United States and European diplomats in the Contact Group of mediators, who meet next week, are expected to endorse Mr Frowick's recommendation that the vote should be held next April or May under international supervision. They will also consider the implications of the postponement for the international community's involvement in Bosnia.

Loyal Chechen fumes at Lebed

David Hearst in Moscow

AS RUSSIAN troops began retreating from the ruins of Grozny, the head of the loyalist Chechen government accused Moscow of treason and said the deal with the rebels could plunge his republic into civil war.

Doku Zavgayev, the man installed by Moscow as leader of the Chechen republic, called General Alexander Lebed, President Boris Yeltsin's security chief who brokered the ceasefire deal, a traitor who had handed power to terrorists.

"If all this is not stopped now, the situation will move towards civil war, which would inevitably break out of the boundaries of the Chechen republic and spread over the Caucasus," Mr Zavgayev said in Moscow.

Mr Zavgayev and his brother are leaders of a powerful Chechen *talpa*, or clan, in the Nadterrechni region, which traditionally has been loyal to Moscow. His government has thousands of armed men willing to fight the separatists, as they started to do in November 1994 before Russia intervened on their behalf.

The loyalists lost more than 100 fighters, mostly policemen, in the rebel assault on Grozny and fear revenge attacks from the separatists, who have now joined the Russians in manning four district military posts from which the city is run. The new system of military rule in Grozny has made Mr Zavgayev's government obsolete, and yesterday he called the transfer of power a coup d'etat.

Gen Lebed's press secretary, Alexander Barkhatov, said Mr Zavgayev's statements were "all lies". He added that Gen Lebed had the full support of the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Mr Yeltsin.

However, Mr Yeltsin is still refusing to meet Gen Lebed and has instead demanded a written report. The official news agency, Itar-Tass, said Mr Yeltsin was still on holiday and had not planned any official meetings.

Last week, Mr Yeltsin criticised Gen Lebed only hours before he reached a deal with the rebel military command, Mr Yeltsin accused his special envoy of promising much but delivering little in Chechnya. He backed the deal the next day.

The truce was given fresh impetus yesterday by a successful meeting between the Russian commander, Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, and Gen Maskhadov in the village of Novye Atagi, south of Grozny.

Gen Tikhomirov said Russian troops would resume their withdrawal today. Gen Maskhadov, a leading moderate among the rebels, appeared satisfied. He said: "We gave each other our word that no provocations would become grounds for a breakdown of negotiations. Somehow, we got around to really acting on creating peace."

This is a tense time for Gen Lebed and Mr Yeltsin, if the ceasefire continues to hold. Mr Yeltsin has to decide whether to endorse the politically risky plan. But Gen Lebed appears to have secured the deal only at the price of creating powerful enemies at home — among the interior minister, Anatoly Kulkov whose resignation he called for but failed to win, and a swath of generals who will have to suffer the humiliation of a pull-out.

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Sister Pierangela, aged 41 and Seattle-born, plays football with friends in the Tuscan village of Montalano. Villagers have petitioned her order not to transfer her to Capri

Swedish congress against exploitation of minors aims to outrage, as California leads way with tough penalties

World states tackle spiralling child sex abuse

'If we accept a world in which children can be bought and sold as if they were goods in a supermarket, we forfeit the right to call ourselves civilised'

Jon Hanley in Stockholm
THREE numbers are estimates, but if they even approach the truth they are horrifying. Almost no corner of the world from the poorest backstreet of Latin America to the ritziest European capital, can claim to be immune.

There are 70,000 child prostitutes in Zambia, 200,000 in Thailand, 40,000 in Venezuela, 25,000 in the Dominican Republic and 500,000 in India. In America, between 100,000 and 300,000 children are sexually exploited through prostitution and pornography every year.

Girls of 12 have been found selling themselves on the streets of Britain; the Netherlands is thought to have 1,000 child sex workers.

In eastern Europe the situation is acute: even Estonia, with a population a quarter the size of London's, employs 1,500 minors, some as young as 10, in its fledgling sex industry.

As delegates from 122 countries gathered in Stockholm yesterday for the first World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, the research they brought with them revealed the staggering scale of child sex abuse.

"The commercial sexual exploitation of children has become a global, multi-billion-dollar industry," Carol Bellamy, executive director of Unicef, said in her opening speech to the conference. Manifestations vary from society to society, but it takes place in virtually every country — and it appears to be booming.

The effects of sexual exploitation on children are profound and often permanent, Ms Bellamy said. "Normal development is compromised, self-esteem and confidence are undermined. The vast majority of sexually exploited children are denied their right to education. Many are ostracised by their families and communities."

Experts say many factors lie behind the recent global rise of child sex abuse. In some societies, the drive towards western-style consumerism has combined, disastrously, with traditional beliefs that young children, particularly girls, are property to be traded — families simply sell their children for something they want more.

Fear of Aids increasingly leads men to seek even younger prostitutes, in the mistaken belief that they are safer. And modern technology — the video camera, home editing suite, computer graphics and the Internet — has made it easier for paedophiles to produce and exchange child pornography, and far more difficult for police to stop them.

Organisers admit the five-day congress, sponsored by the Swedish government in co-operation with Unicef and non-governmental groups, is unlikely to produce many concrete, immediate changes, but it aims to produce more than well-meaning words.

Tom Techerling, one of the organisers and a former Swedish ambassador, said the congress should increase international co-operation aimed at strengthening and harmonising legislation.

"Laws are the ultimate protection for children," he said. "Nowhere near enough is being done either to make laws sufficiently strong or to enforce them when they are in place."

though some countries have made advances in recent years, others lag behind. Australia has led the way in extra-territorial legislation which allows its nationals to be prosecuted at home for "sex tourism" — sex crimes against children committed abroad.

Of the 12 countries which have adopted similar laws, Australia has by far the highest rate of action and the most severe penalties, including jail terms of up to 17 years, according to a Bangkok-based group, End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (Ecpat).

By contrast, Sweden is almost alone among European countries in failing to pass legislation outlawing the possession of child pornography.

Sweden's child protection groups have threatened to disrupt the conference, and the anomaly — caused by constitutional procedure — drew an outburst from the Swedish queen.

After watching a video seized in Sweden, Queen Sylvia, the patron of the congress, said all MPs should be made to watch at least one child pornography film to force them to push through the amendments necessary to change the law.

If nothing else, the congress should produce a "real sense of outrage", Ron O'Grady of Ecpat said in his opening remarks. "Because basically, if we accept a world in which children can be bought and sold as if they were goods in a supermarket, we forfeit the right to call ourselves civilised."

Britain sought to take the lead yesterday in the battle against child prostitution.

The junior Home Office minister, Timothy Kirkhope, speaking at the Stockholm summit, was due to urge all countries to adopt their own action plans, as well as to commit themselves to extradite people accused of committing sex offences in other countries and to prosecute offenders in their own countries.

Repeat offenders face 'castration'

Drummond Ayres in Los Angeles

TAKING the lead in a nationwide push to enact tougher sex-crime laws in America, California is set to pass a measure requiring "chemical castration" of repeat child molesters.

The measure mandates that any child-sex offender convicted twice be periodically injected, after release from prison, with a drug that inhibits sex drive — unless the offender voluntarily submits to surgical castration.

A first-time child molester convicted of a particularly bad offence would have to undergo the same treatment.

The bill is expected to be passed this week and will then face constitutional challenges.

Supporters of the measure, who say it will protect some of society's most vulnerable crime targets, do not consider it too punitive, given the severity of the crime and the often compulsive, recidivistic and unrepentant nature of offenders.

"What we're up against is the kind of criminal who, just as soon as he gets out of jail, will immediately commit this crime again at least 90 per cent of the time," said Bill Hoge, the chief sponsor of the bill.

"So why not give these people a shot to calm them down and bring them under control or, alternatively, give them the option of going under the knife? That's what they do in some countries in Europe, like Sweden and Denmark and Germany. And when they do — medicine or surgery — the repeat rate drops to 2 per cent."

Opponents of the bill say it is a simplistic overreaction to a complex problem.

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Isn't physical adornment an adult preoccupation? Shouldn't it stay that way? Encouraged in little girls, it's inappropriate, repellent, even sad.
Julie Myerson

Long to reign over us?

The kindest thing might be for Charles to go quietly

IS THERE a more exquisite form of modern torture imaginable than that involved in waiting to be King of England? Every dawn brings a fresh assault by headline. No private whisper goes unbugged or unpublished. No fleeting glance goes unwatched. No week passes without a tabloid poll shrieking intrusive verdicts on the supposed intimacies of your failed marriage and future relationships.

always thought to be an inescapable duty. Mr Dimbleby tells us that the word "abdication" is anathema to the royal family. "It not only reeks of crisis and failure," he writes in his doorstopper biography of Charles, "but it denies the fundamental assumption of an hereditary institution."

But where is the dignity in being the Prince of Wales today and what prospect is there of salvaging any dignity in the foreseeable future? The ending of his unhappy marriage has closed off one source of prurient speculation and intrusion only to open several more. Rupert Murdoch may or may not be a closet republican, but he has a shrewd nose for a commercial storyline or six.

There is no doubting the Prince's sincerity when he speaks of his sense of duty. Yet, in his conversations with Mr Dimbleby, Charles can offer only painfully stumbling clues as to what he thinks might be involved beyond a mere sense of duty. "If, at some stage in the distant future, I was to succeed my mama, then obviously I would do my best to fulfil that next role," he told his amanuensis. "But it's very difficult to speculate myself about how I would function in that role... Sometimes, you dream about the sort of things you might do."

We have it on no less an authority than Jonathan Dimbleby that not once, even in his darkest moments, has the Prince of Wales ever seriously contemplated the surrender of what he has

When silence speaks volumes

Support for Mr Arafat's tortuous regime is fading

WHY ARE Yasser Arafat's friends not leaping to defend the Palestinian cause? Could it be that, as the human rights abuses of his regime multiply, he does not have many left? Yesterday's new Israeli encroachments were a slap in the face after recent Palestinian concessions. Israeli police hoisted a bulldozer into the old city of Jerusalem to demolish a building intended as a centre for handicapped Arabs.

dumped in hospital by his captors in the "coastal police" (one of 10 semi-autonomous security forces). Mr Arafat announced he would not tolerate torture and three naval officers were convicted after a hasty trial. But there is no sign of any change in the arbitrary misuse of police power. A friend of Mr Jumayel, Nasser Jumaa, who has also been tortured, remains in Jneid jail without being charged or allowed legal representation.

Mr Arafat will have fewer friends still if he continues to run the Palestinian Authority (PA) with a despotic disregard for human rights and democracy. Since July 1995 at least eight people have died in the custody of his security services in circumstances where torture has been proved or suspected. The case in July of the young Nablus activist, Mahmoud Jumayel, has rebounded on the PA; the victim was already brain-dead when he was

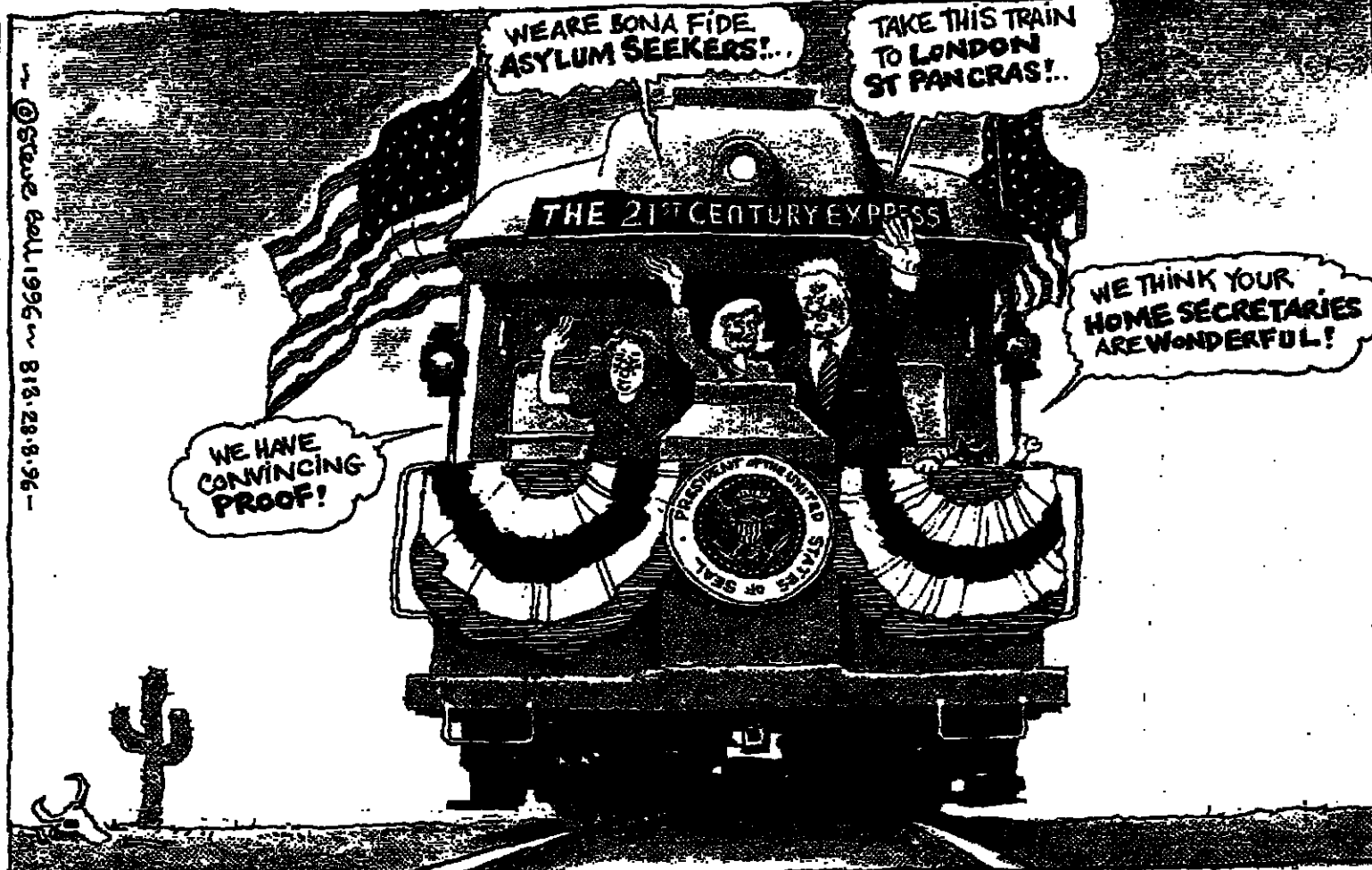
Edward Said (in the Guardian last week) argued that Mr Arafat is behaving just like the other ageing dictators of the Middle East. If he wishes to refute such charges, Mr Arafat must meet seriously the criticisms of independent jurists and human-rights observers. Even Mr Netanyahu should be disturbed. An autocratic PA leader may seem to deliver better "security"; but this is a futile gain if, in doing so, he alienates his own Palestinian people.

A channel four the public good

Privatisation will diminish, not widen choice for viewers

A GOVERNMENT which can privatise water will not hesitate to sell public service television to the highest bidder. Michael Grade was right to start preparing his defence of Channel 4 at this week's Edinburgh Festival. There is no imminent ministerial decision pending, but the "masked raiders" at the Treasury have been salivating over the profits which Mr Grade has been generating and his success at negotiating the end of the annual levy, which has been paid to ITV. Next year's £90 million levy will be the last, which will make it even more attractive to private bidders.

goodbye to that. It would introduce a familiar and stale media imperative: maximise your profits for shareholders by maximising your audience and spending less on programmes. Channel 4's current programme schedule distinguishes it from ITV and the hundreds of cable and satellite channels which have sharpened competition — without significantly widening choice. As Michael Grade told his Edinburgh audience: "You can have privatised C4 or you can have C4 with its full, public-service remit. You cannot have both."



Letters to the Editor

The truth about youth

CHARLES Hendry's advocacy of young people's issues is well known and admired (Mad about the boys and girls, August 27) but in his enthusiasm he unfortunately gives reality a wide berth. By all means, let's celebrate the achievements of young people, but let us not hide from the realities.

In London, youth unemployment has consistently risen, with a 16 per cent increase since 1991. The extent of youth homelessness is spiralling. Those young people who do get a job increasingly find their position insecure and bereft of legal protection since the abolition of the wages councils: 16 to 18-year-olds do not have access to social-security benefits; and of those who do receive severe hardship payments, reality is made little easier — a 1991 government survey revealed that one-quarter needed to beg, steal or sell drugs to survive, with many turning to prostitution.

Drug abuse, particularly among the young, is a symptom of a wider malaise we ignore at our peril. And let us not forget that young people are also the biggest victims of crime. Rather than telling young people that "they have never had it so good", we must ensure that they are as best equipped as possible to meet both the challenges and opportunities of being young today. But when politicians make seemingly uninformed remarks about the experi-

ences of young people, it comes as no surprise to many when surveys reveal that only two out of five 18- to 24-year-olds are likely to vote at the next general election. Bernard Donoghue, Chair, London Youth Matters, Pastures Youth Centre, Davies Lane, London E11 5DR.

FOR Charles Hendry to suggest that the party, temporary-contract economy which this Government has created allows young people to "build and earn enough to enjoy [their] social life" stretches the bounds of credulity. With low-pay, instant dismissal, and no right to sick-pay holidays, no wonder Britain's youth are having such a great time. It must come as a bit of a shock, then, for Hendry to note vast increases in university attendance. Obviously, these young people are doing everything to avoid taking advantage of the unlimited amount of time now available.

Hendry's "opportunity" is the opportunity to be among the least valued members of society, his "choices" the choice between a £10,000 debt at university or a £1.50-an-hour job. It would be nice to believe in a "bright future" because, given the gloom, what else is there? Luke Treadmill, 37 St Thomas Hill, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7ET.

CHARLES Hendry cites UB40 singing about the "one-in-10", taking it as a commentary on the unem-

Severe congestion as letters page blocked by anti-car emissions

MICHAEL Savage (Letters, August 27) describes the car as "an example of human ingenuity". If this were true, we would by now have cars that automatically reduce their size in accordance with the number of people carried, crumble on contact with human flesh, and cause no environmental pollution. We would also have buses capable of carrying supermarket trolleys as well as wheelchairs, and juggernauts that split up into three or four smaller vehicles on reaching the outskirts of a town.

The modern car is more a product of vested interests (the oil and motor industries), advertising and the "me-first" attitude promoted by 17 years of Tory government. Jim Grozier, 92a Springfield Road, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 6DE.

Axel Sindig claims (Letters, August 24) that industry is responsible for 70 per cent of pollution. Who makes cars? Motor vehicles use considerable amounts of steel and plastics, both of which use large amounts of energy and produce lots of pollution.

He also addresses the "economies" of public transport vs the car, stating that public transport receives massive subsidies. I wonder if he takes into his equation the public subsidy in the form of health care necessary for the victims of the car. Les Stennett, 72 Woodplumpton Road, Woodplumpton, Preston, Lancs PR4 0NE.

HOW can Mr Gummer claim to be ahead of Europe in controlling vehicle pollution? Ten years ago, residents in France were liable to be pulled off the road by special police units to have exhaust emissions tested. I myself was once found to be driving a car with a slightly excessive carbon monoxide reading. An immediate fine of 600 francs was the penalty. Cyril Eyre, Mutton's Cottage, S'Mabyn, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 8BP.

DENIS Mason (Letters, August 22) says that a heavy increase in petrol duty would be unfair to those in rural areas who have poor public transport and very few local shops. This may seem a valid objection to higher petrol taxes but we need to consider why the rural infrastructure has deteriorated.

The main reason is the growth of the car. Many car owners in villages work in cities and do their shopping there; many others may still use their cars to go to the nearest out-of-town shopping centre. Both these groups rarely use public transport or shops in their own communities. This fall in demand leads to the withdrawal of local services and more pressure on people to buy a car. This vicious circle needs to be broken for the sake of the many people who cannot afford cars, and for the sake of the environment. Richard Mountford, 76 Springfield Road, Birmingham B14 7DY.

Nuclear target

YOU report assertions that the BNFL Thorp project is behind schedule (Production crisis hits Thorp nuclear plant, August 24). This is puzzling, particularly as BNFL has repeatedly made available figures which show that the project has exceeded the targets which have been set by the engineers and staff who are currently conducting the commissioning of the plant.



New man seeks new post

CHARLOTTE Raven uses Koo Stark's decision to become a German kid as an excuse for asserting that all men are crap (What women don't want, August 26). Why? I live in a society I didn't make, my parents gave me values which conflict, though generally for the best; I've read feminist literature; I've never called a woman fat, ugly or dumb; I don't join in conversations involving men and dismising women as interchangeable. Yet I am dismissable because my gender proves I'm useless beyond sex and DIY. I feel like: 1) a woman; 2) a German kid; 3) the easiest target! Ms Raven could think of it.

Sex for sale

WHY the outrage at paedophilia and pornography? If British people want to know how they themselves have helped define perceptions of the role of women and girls, let them wander into any reputable high-street newsagent, where the top couple of shelves provide the shopper of any age with a range of pornography probably wider than the range of material for any other interest group. They will find plenty of examples of women dressed up, or rather down, in parodies of little-girl outfits, adopting "little girls" apparently helpless poses.

Blank holidays

DOES J R Catlin (Letters, August 27) appreciate the additional burden that more public holidays would place on food supplies? Last Friday, my local Sainsbury's all but disappeared under heaving crowds of shoppers, all intent on taking home enough food to enable a small village to withstand a three-month siege. The scene at Christmas is straight out of Dante. For pity's sake, let's leave well alone. Ronald W Graves, Flat 1, 11 Slaty Road, Oxton, Wirral L49 1TA.

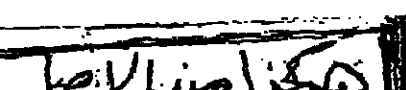
Workers of the world, unite

YOU report (Prescott woos Labour vote in US, August 26) that Labour's deputy leader says there is a lot to admire in the Clinton administration. On the same page is an account of how the new Welfare Bill, signed by Clinton, will cut off all assistance to illegal immigrants in California as well as millions of the poor in the rest of the US. Wouldn't my colleagues be better advised to make contact with the New American Labour Party set up recently in Cleveland at a conference of 1,500 people and with much support from US trade unions? They have decided that the Democratic Party no longer represents the working class and that the US needs a real Labour Party. Hugh Kerr MEP, European Parliament, 107-113 rue Belliard, 10417 Brussels, Belgium.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Below Weir Head, at low tide, the Tamar flows in a narrow channel beside a slippery, stony shore. Upstream is the silted-up lock of the derelict Navigation Canal, a quiet backwater covered in lilies and hemmed in by dark trees. Across the river's ebbing water, a single, round-headed willow marks the edge of an expansive sunlit meadow and beyond, in a blue haze, is Morwell Wood. Flat land on the Cornish side is restricted to a narrow terrace below the wooded Colley Cliff. Tall Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and hogweed encroach on the narrow path and trees cast dense shade over ruined walls growing ferns, ivy and moss. Just recognisable are the remains of a lime kiln, the end wall of a cottage and an old well. Amazingly, this remote, overgrown site was once a shipbuilding yard downriver from Gunnislake, a booming mining town in the 19th century. Between 1864 and 1868 five vessels were built at Net-

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Diary
Matthew Norman

TRIUMPH awaits New Labour in America. In a fortnight, two of our finest exports will officially endorse the party at a public breakfast attended by Patsy Prescott, the party chump. Yes, it's that golden New York media couple, Harry Evans and Tina Brown. Party, you suspect, since Harry, boss at Random House, and Tina, editor of the New Yorker, are not famed for backing losers, their support is considered a splendid prize — albeit one that has been on the cards since they flew to Washington in April just to be at the same party as Mr Tony Blair.

What has finally persuaded Mr Evans, once a brilliant editor of the Sunday Times, to prepare the chintzy puff of public relations is unclear. Certainly, it would seem an act of unlikely arrogance were he to hold forth on the governance of a country he had no intention of living in. Perhaps Mr Evans thinks he has reached the "old age" which, he once said, was the one thing that would bring him back to London. Certainly, at 68, he has matured from the young firebrand who reputedly refused Harold Wilson's offer of a Labour peerage.

FROM Scotland comes a major medical breakthrough: a cure has been found for haemorrhoids. You may recall how Sye Webster, banned by Ayrbroath FC after kissing the referee, added as evidence in his bid for reinstatement his doctor's statement that watching from a bench outside the ground was aggravating his Farmer Giles. The ban has since been lifted, Mr Webster has been drinking with players after games, and on a pre-season trip to Newcastle he has even invited to breakfast with the team... and, so Scotland on Sunday reports, those piles have vanished. It's a miracle.

THOSE enchanted by the blitz ad-campaign of Mercury Communications featuring the spectral floating baby will find it hard to believe, but there is, after all, something you cannot use it to telephone: you cannot use it to complain to Mercury One2One about a faulty mobile phone. A customer reports how when he called recently, an operator called William adamantly refused to connect him to customer relations, on the grounds that the telephone was not a suitable device for dealing with complaints. Apparently, only the post will do.

It seems that London Underground, purveyor of chaos and misery to the capital city, has passed a correspondence course at the Paul Johnson School of Sane and Rational Moral Judging. LU has banned a cartoon poster on the ground that it features a gay couple. It does carry out ads (one for Durex shows a man and a woman, naked to the waist, cuddling in what appears to be a pool of semen) but two men in bed together, however passively, has proved too much. Meanwhile, in an impressive follow-up strike, LU has told the gay charity Rubber-stuffers that its posters must avoid the words "gay", "sex", and "condom" — an intriguing logistical challenge to a group whose purpose is to provide free condoms to gay men who may well want to use them during sex.

In the continuing row between Esther Rantzen and her BBC colleague Martin Ware, who accuses her of sloppy journalism and of misleading viewers about the cause for the inoperable illness, a quote moves me to tears. "Mr Ware is a distinguished reporter," said Esther in Monday's Independent. "But I too have been honoured to understand Esther's phobia about self-congratulation to know what pain such a declaration will have caused her. Not only does she care (she cares almost too much, some believe), she has courage to match. Truly, the woman is a saint."

AT Snaresbrook Crown Court, an official message has been posted in the barristers' robing room. "Please do not spit in the ashtrays," it says. What is the world coming to?



Time for a Minister of Justice

Commentary Derek Lewis

THE protracted fracas over the early release of prisoners appears to have elevated the humble cock-up into a noble art form. Even the Grand Old Duke of York could not have marched his soldiers up to the top of the hill and down again more expertly.

This sorry tale demonstrates the undiminished capacity of the British for muddling through. The 1967 Act, which purports to set out how remand time spent in prison should be deducted from prison sentences, is a masterpiece of woolly drafting which has been interpreted for 30 years with a strong dose of common sense seasoned by local improvisation. Gods, however, are the days when prisoners were compliant respecters of a Home Secretary's authority. Today prisoners, egged on by lawyers high on Legal Aid, turn to the law at the slightest provocation. The threat that litigation could undermine 30 years of muddling through

prompted me to recommend a review of the whole system last year. The only way forward is to have a Minister of Justice. Ministers of Justice have been a feature of the Government and the Prison Service. Ministers agreed. Even after making allowances for the August silly season and the settling of old scores between the Prison Service, probation services and ministers, such a bizarre outcome could hardly have been anticipated. It seems that the purist view of a hit-or-miss lawyer within the Home Office has triggered a catastrophic chain of events. They concluded that prisoners sentenced to consecutive sentences for several offences should benefit more than once from their time spent on remand by having it deducted from each sentence. Others will take over the reins in microscopic detail to decide who shot John — and indeed which John was or should have been shot. Thankfully, Michael Howard has acted rapidly to resolve an absurdity in the

law or in its interpretation — but there is a sting even in that tail. This comedy of errors has been capped by the bizarre spectacle of a Home Secretary reduced to inviting convicted criminals to sue him so that the courts can resolve the situation.

Let us hope a prisoner will oblige and the courts will rule quickly in favour of common sense. If, perchance, they were to rule that the new Home Office legal advice is correct, there will need to be urgent legislation to restore sanity for the future. Events such as these can have dangerous side effects. They can create an unholy alliance between ministers, senior civil servants and opposition politicians as they indulge in an orgy of centralisation. Ministers naturally believe cock-ups justify their own instinctive belief that only they, not those running the operations, are capable of acting rationally and with due consideration for ministerial careers. Mandarins will argue for more central control over organisations such as the Prison Service in the quest for power and the interests of their own job security. Opposition politicians will, short-sightedly demand more ministerial involvement as a way of pinning responsibility on ministers and forcing resignations, ignoring the fact that they hope to reverse those roles at the next general

election. The other danger, amid all the hoopla, is that the more fundamental issues will be ignored. Our system of holding people on remand in prison is a national scandal. With more than 10,000 in prison awaiting trial or sentence, most spend many months incarcerated and for some it extends to a year or more. The cost to the taxpayer is enormous — £300 million or so each year — money that could be much better spent preventing crime, catching and convicting more criminals, and rehabilitating those sent to prison.

The blame for these delays and the misuse of taxpayers' money rests with our system of criminal justice and with the law on remand. The justice system is painfully slow and creaking. Recent improvements in the police, Crown Prosecution Service and court system have done little more than nibble at practices that are rooted in

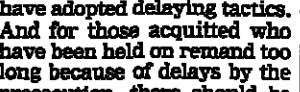
often at public expense through the generous Legal Aid system. While the guilty benefit from manipulating the system, the innocent suffer. One in five remand prisoners is acquitted. They will have served a sentence for a crime they did not commit. They may have lost their job, their home or their family but most will receive no compensation.

A new system is needed for determining the length of prison sentences. Remand time should no longer be automatically deducted from the sentence. Judges should decide exactly how long prisoners should serve after they have been convicted, whether time spent on remand should be taken into account and if so how much — taking a properly dim view of those who have adopted delaying tactics. And for those acquitted who have been held on remand too long because of delays by the prosecution, there should be the real possibility of compensation. Ministers had already responded to Prison Service requests for such changes as part of the sentencing proposals published in the March white paper — a welcome case where government ministers can honestly say that the problem was anticipated and acted on.

But the Government must not confine itself to dealing with the mechanics of calculating sentences. The warring factions of the criminal-justice system — police, prisons, probation, lawyers, judges and courts — are all in need of a radical shake-up. The time has come to create a single Ministry of Justice that would have the vision, the determination and the power to achieve change where others have failed.

Derek Lewis was chief executive and director-general of the Prison Service 1993-1996. Catherine Bennett is a lawyer.

Information before technology



MORE than 25 per cent of people aged 16 to 24, according to Gallup in yesterday's Daily Telegraph, can't tell you the date of the Battle of Hastings. Only one in 10 can name the king who signed Magna Carta. Yet more than eight in 10 know who plays the landlady of the Queen Vic pub in EastEnders: Barbara Windsor.

I wonder what Arthur Mee would have said about that. Having prudently died in 1943, he's been spared these revelations, which is just as well since he devoted the whole of his working life to the belief that if you offer people information in a clear and accessible form, they will wolf it up. That was the basis of Mee's Children's Encyclopaedia, which in its edition runs to 10 volumes and in some people's minds is a classic of the genre. It's a classic work, rather like a vast department store which sells stockings on the fifth floor and rights in the basement because it was originally issued in fortnightly parts. It ranks you from topic to disparate topic: woman (her brain compared with man's) on one page and a poem by Keats on the next. But travel it with the index and untold wealths of information are there, from AA ("standing for Automobile Association") to Zyrardow, the Polish woolen centre.

The eldest son of a railway fireman — there were 10 children in the family — Mee was from early youth a kind of information machine. At the turn of the century he was spotted by Northcliffe, not least for his collection of 250,000 press cuttings. That led to Harmsworth Histories Of The World — Natural History and Popular Science. In his last 12 years he turned to another audacious project: a village-by-village audit in 41 volumes of all the English counties. The impulse was much the same. Mee wanted people to know what their country contained — especially now that the motorcar was liberating the many to do what till then had been the lot of only a privileged few: to explore it for themselves. He was editor rather than author: he could hardly travel the whole terrain himself, so he relied on reports by close colleagues and friends. But open a page at random, and the tone is unmistakably his.

To a modern ear, it is often archaic and sometimes a little cloying. "We found it," he says of Rushden, Herts, "far away from the strife of the world with as lovely a group of thatched cottages as ever stood

Our system of holding people on remand in prison is a scandal. The cost to the taxpayer is enormous

Prisoners and their defence lawyers who play the remand system contribute equally to the problem. Prisoners expecting a prison sentence drag their heels. They would rather serve time on remand, where they are not required to work and enjoy better conditions, than in the more austere environment experienced by convicted prisoners. Defence lawyers spin out cases to increase their fees,

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A substantial part of the Treasury could be turned into luxury flats. Deyan Sudjic proposes that other historic buildings in London might be made to earn their living

Whitehall's new flat tax

SO SHORT of money is Britain that the only way the Treasury can afford a new carpet is to sell off half its threadbare Whitehall headquarters for use as luxury flats. No, this is not a joke: such is the power of real life to leap-frog over even the most fantastic attempts at irony. Ken Clarke's financial rocket-scientists are at this very moment poring over the fine print of two separate proposals along exactly those lines.

Stuart Lipton and Godfrey Bradman, the men who brought us the late lamented property boom of the 1980s and followed it with the even less lamented property bust, see the deal as their best chance of making a comeback as developers. They are fighting each other for the chance to refurbish those parts of the building that the Treasury will not part with. In exchange, the successful developer will be able to turn the other half into a block of ultra-upmarket flats aimed at the kind of high rollers who fancy an unobstructed view of Buckingham Palace from their Jacuzzi window; high rollers who have presumably been positively vetted to ensure they do not harbour a secret passion for target practice with high-powered rifles or unsuspected proficiency in the use of ultra-sensitive long-range listening devices.

Given that the Treasury is in a better position to borrow cheaply than either Lipton or Bradman, it is hardly a recipe for saving the country money. Nor is it likely to make life easy for future Chancellors: if the successful bidder eventually gets the go-ahead, the Treasury will have to count on a reduction in tax revenue, and tax reduction depends on shaving as many pounds as possible off the public-sector borrowing requirement. And in pursuit of that object, the private finance initiative, of which the



looking after the pennies; what we are talking about here is winning battles. The feel-good factor depends on tax reduction, and tax reduction depends on shaving as many pounds as possible off the public-sector borrowing requirement. And in pursuit of that object, the private finance initiative, of which the

Treasury is only the most baroque manifestation has barely got into its stride. Madame Tussaud's is offering to build a visitors' centre for English Heritage at Stonehenge and the Foreign Office is touting a development site in the centre of Berlin in the hope of squeezing the British embassy to Germany into the

basement as part of the deal. But for a government that has already had the vision to embark on privatising the prisons, the railways and the nuclear-power stations, there is no need to stop there.

Now that the Home Secretary is doing such a good job of bringing down the crime figures, it is time to down-size

the Met, leaving plenty of room inside New Scotland Yard surplus to requirements, which presents an unsurpassed opportunity for top-security living with Palace views. Such residences would be uniquely well-suited to catering for the highly specialised requirements of the more insecure tycoon with Latin American poppy-growing connexions, and with an interest in a heavily guarded front door and 24-hour on-site security.

And what about the Palace of Westminster? The fact that the Internet has made representative democracy redundant and the BBC's studio across the way from Palace Yard has taken on the role of the lobby, the chamber would make a fine setting for Planet Washington, the first in a worldwide chain of politically themed hamburger restaurants with party memorabilia all over the walls. It would certainly be a no less dignified fate for the building than County Hall's proposed new use as an aquarium.

Those goshes bells in the Law Courts in the Strand are clearly the most monumental lost opportunity, just begging for a dynamic new future as the Last Chance Gambling Salon, franchised to Mecca. And the National Gallery would make a fine marriage centre for Japanese visitors keen to fly round the world to plight their troth under the gaze of a Leonardo or a Rembrandt.

Then, of course, there are the rich opportunities of Downing Street itself. Why not meet the ever more heavy running costs of the Prime Minister's residence by carrying out self-contained office space in the basement? It is just the sort of address that the James Goldsmiths and the Ross Perots of this world want to pay handsomely for, and it is certainly much better value than having to buy all those votes.

Retro-chic hits the hijack

It's back, like other sixties icons, but this time the air hold-up looks distinctly clumsy. Ian Black on a terrorist anachronism

HJACKING aircraft hasn't what it used to be: the photogenic rash that broke out in the late sixties faded away some time back, so yesterday's drama of the Sudan Airways plane at Stansted had a curiously retro feel to it, a blast from the past when even terrorism made sense. Those familiar old roles were faithfully re-acted through a sepia lens: the armed police, the careful hostage negotiators, the ABC group or individual has even claimed responsibility for the biggest act of mass murder since Lockerbie.

Sudan Airways provided a means of escape. Like the Cubans who flee the loosening grip of Fidel Castro, these Iraqis wanted to reach a safe haven they knew they

would find in Britain. They differed only from the mass of their modern counterparts in having the means to get out. Legal fundamentals require a trial here. The other possibility — return to the point of departure — must be ruled out because Sudan's easy relationship with its fellow-pariah in Baghdad means that a flight to Khartoum would mean death. Over to Michael Howard — normally busy trying to appease Britain's more respectable Middle Eastern friends about their London-based dissidents — and an imaginative interpretation of the asylum laws once punishment has been meted out.

Aircraft-hijacking has gone out of fashion since the Palestinians, defeated by the Israelis after the 1967 war, sought to dramatise their struggle by seiz-

ing civilian planes. Lella Khaleel in London and the operations at Dawson's Field in Jordan were among the Palestinians' spectacular pieces of political theatre, a weapon of the weak with a strong sense of the dramatic.

The Middle East provided many of the most compelling examples of the genre. TWA was dubbed "Travel With Amal" after the Lebanese Shi'ite movement that in 1985 took a plane to Beirut and started a two-week international deathwatch by murdering a US Navy man and dumping his body live on camera. And in a sinister meeting of terrorist and media agendas, those hostages were eventually freed with an ABC anchorman acting as MC.

But planes are much harder now: 25 years ago anyone with the nerve could divert one with a pistol. Now casual hijackers are stumped by the simple expedient of X-raying bags and walking through magnetometers. That will not stop a dedicated profes-

sional, who can still break through the defences — like the Algerian Islamists who took an Air France flight to Marseilles a couple of years ago — but it does make the attempt more risky. Coordinated legal moves have helped: air piracy is hijackery, so when Cuban hijackers land in Miami the Americans routinely send them back, whatever the politicians say about isolating Havana.

But the really big job remains tackling those faceless terrorists who murder to express a general hatred, unarticulated and mute, for the West, for America. They at least understand that wholesale death — no ceasefires, no coded warnings, no regrets for civilian casualties — does have a shock value the old hijack never achieved.

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Baron Baker... the 'Christopher Columbus of Brixton' and of Notting Hill's Carnival

Baron Baker

King Carnival

BARON Baker had a taste for the theatrical. Whether hawking goat curry, rice and peas from a street stall or hectoring at a public meeting the lack of opportunities for black teenagers, he would always strive for the dramatic gesture.

favour of signing up for the RAF as a military policeman. Posted in Sussex during the second world war, he bridled with wounded British pride when taunted by white Glas: "We are King George VI's soldiers, not Roosevelt's black boys," he told them.

of the Windrush, Baker was dubbed the "Christopher Columbus of Brixton". He might equally have been called the Columbus of Notting Hill as he played a formative part in the events that gave birth to the carnival. In August, 1968, the area exploded into racial violence when thousands of white youths rioted against their black neighbours.

stories, peppered with Jamaican aphorisms. In his smoky, litting voice with an infectious laugh, he was a good-time boy, friends were drawn to him, including Josephine Baker and Sarah Churchill, Winston's daughter, as well as Mandy Rice-Davies and Christine Keeler in the late 1950s.

Letter

Klaus Heldensdorf writes: Rio Reiser, Germany's rock king may have been a travelling salesman's son, but the German word for traveller is "reisender", not, as your obituary (August 27) suggested, "traveller" which doesn't exist in the language unless spelt with "ss". It thus becomes "reisler" meaning something sensational — "best seller" or "thriller". When Reiser was at the height of his success he may well have been a reisler!

Birthdays

Paul Allen, footballer, 34; The Duke of Argyll, chief of clan Campbell, 66; Rt Rev John Bone, Bishop of Reading, 68; Sir Cecil Clothier QC, chairman, Beverley Allitt Inquiry, 77; Amogoo Cooper, pianist, 47; Lord (English) Cudlipp, journalist, 83; Prof Wendy Davies, historian, 64; Windsor Davies, actor, 66; Arthur Dunkley, former director-general, Gatt, 64; Janet Freeman, novelist, 72; Carol Hawley, prof of public law, LSE, 61; Sir Rupert Hart-Davis, author and publisher, 89; Anne Hudson, prof of Medieval English, University of Oxford, 65; Barbara Hughes, doghandler, broadcaster, 49; Prof Sir John Kingman, vice-chancellor, Bristol University, 57; Dr Joseph Luns, former secretary-general, NATO, 86; Elaine Mellor, former jockey, 58; Donald O'Connor, actor, dancer, 71; Jamie Osborne, jockey, 29; Max Robertson, broadcaster, 82; John Shirley-Quirk, bass-baritone, 65; David Soul, actor, 52; Margaret Stonor, botanical artist, 75.

Raymond O'Malley

English as a lively living literary language

RAYMOND O'Malley, who has died aged 86, spent his life teaching English to young people, from primary level to university. He was born in London of Irish parents — his father was a soldier — and as a young man his avid reading included the works of D H Lawrence as they came out. After an English first at Trinity College, Cambridge, he taught at Dartington Hall School in Devon. There he became senior English teacher and deputy head.

stractions exhibited "hygienic, rootless rationality" had connected him with what became known as Cambridge English and to E R Leavis, the moving force behind Scrutiny, to which he contributed. Through Scrutiny he met editorial board member Denis Thompson, with whom O'Malley published many books from the 1950s to the 1970s. O'Malley's first wife, Dorothy Athorpe, a South African, was the best friend of Q D Leavis.

When the second world war broke out, O'Malley was granted an exemption from military service as a pacifist but told that he could no longer teach and must work on a farm. He decided on subsistence farming, which neither added to the strain of the war nor made him a drain on the economy. After a year's training, he rented a croft in Wester Ross, "too small to support a pair of horses and yet unworkable without one".

1946. His misery was unabated until his 1949 marriage to cellist Pamela King. After the war he returned to Dartington but in 1953 took a Southampton University lectureship and in 1951 moved to Cambridge as a lecturer in the Department of Education. He completed, with Denis Thompson, a series of secondary school course books that took pupils up to O level. At a time when parsing and précis were the staple of school English, English for the Living encouraged intelligent reading and lively writing. Other series followed.

His interest in literature was broad and political in the tradition of R H Tawney. D H Lawrence represented for him among other things, clarity in community life and sensitivity to the rhythms of nature. This was no romantic notion of an "organic community" but something he knew at first hand from the valley in the Cullinan mountains. His writing experience also gave him a love of folk song. He wrote the entry on that subject in Cambridge Guide to the Arts in Britain.

using the original texts when teaching literature to the young and opposed teaching a literature specially adapted for school pupils. Taught appropriately, Shakespeare, he felt, could be enjoyed early and remain a source of pleasure as the pupil grew older. He was a perceptive critic and invited students to consider texts from a fresh angle. He had a quiet authority and hearing him speak, you were compelled to admire the integrity behind the self-effacing, sharp-seeing tall man. At the same time he had a delightful sense of humour, which showed itself in his teaching. This was never dull and was an activity he believed should be shared with students. The teacher had no mystique, but only the advantage of having made more mistakes by which the less experienced might learn.

On the Department of Education, he worked to know every student so that his choice of their school placements — he kept in close touch with each educational establishment — extended their understanding. By the conclusion of his professional career, he was director of studies and life fellow at Selwyn College, Cambridge. In 1966, he suffered a severe stroke, the first of several, but his strong constitution and the devoted care of Pamela enabled him to attend concerts for most of his remaining years. He also leaves a daughter, and two sons.

Death Notices

BRIDGEMAN, peacefully on 23rd August 1996 aged 85. Ingeborg Elizabeth (Dorothy) Bridgeman, nee Goodwin, widow of the late George, mother of Janet and John, nee Goodwin. Private funeral and cremation at St. Andrew's Church, Brixton, on 29th August at 11.00 am. Friends invited to St. Andrew's Church, Brixton, on 29th August at 11.00 am. In lieu of flowers. Condolences accepted at 11.00 am. Friends invited to St. Andrew's Church, Brixton, on 29th August at 11.00 am. In lieu of flowers. Condolences accepted at 11.00 am. Friends invited to St. Andrew's Church, Brixton, on 29th August at 11.00 am. In lieu of flowers. Condolences accepted at 11.00 am.

David Tudor

Black Mountain sounds

DAVID Tudor, who has died aged 70, abandoned a career as a virtuoso pianist to devote himself to the composition and performance of electronic music. Tudor was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he began his career as an organist. After studying composition and piano, he began to concentrate on the piano and soon became known as an interpreter of some of the most demanding works in the contemporary repertoire.

When the Merce Cunningham Dance Company was formed at Black Mountain College in North Carolina, in the summer of 1953, with John Cage as musical director, Tudor joined him as company musician. He continued to perform and tour with the company until the end of 1954, when ill-health caused him to retire. After the death of Cage in August 1992, Tudor had succeeded him as the company's musical director, and he continued as musical advisor. In the early days, Tudor loved to play 19th century salon music, and he made a selection of such pieces for Cunningham's Dime a Dance in 1953. Another Cunningham dance of that year was Earle, to music by Louis Moreau Gottschalk. Cunningham's dancers could not understand why the choreographer had chosen the piece when they heard it played by another pianist, so Cunningham

asked Tudor to play it for one rehearsal. "It sounded like 50 pianos played at once," Cunningham has said, and when they heard, the dancers understood. Tudor also played music of this kind for dances by the eccentric and beautiful Katherine Litz. At Black Mountain in 1952, where Tudor was an instructor, he took part in Cage's famous untitled, unstructured theatre piece, together with Cunningham, the poets Mary Caroline Richards and Charles Olson, and the painter Robert Rauschenberg. A number of friends from Black Mountain later formed the Gate Hill Co-op in Stony Point, New York, known as "The Land," where Cage, Tudor, Richards, and other artists lived for many years.

In the early 1960s, Cage and Tudor initiated the trend towards "live" (as opposed to taped) electronic music in the Cunningham company's musical repertoire, and Tudor ended his active career as a pianist. In 1968 he composed his first score, for Cunningham's Hair Forest. This was followed by Sounddance

(1975), Exchange (1978), Channels/Issues (1981), Quasi (1982), The Land (1984), Shards (1987), Five Stone Wind (with Cage and Takehisa Kosugi) (1988), Polarity (1990), and Enter (1992). In the autumn of 1992, he returned to the acoustic piano in concert performances with Cage, Ocean, to which Tudor contributed the electric component, Soundings: Ocean Diary. The orchestral element, played by 112 musicians, is by Andrew Culver, following Cage's original concept. The work was performed earlier this summer, at the Lincoln Center Festival in New York. Many of the electronic devices used in Tudor's compositions were designed and made by himself. Tudor was one of four core artists who collaborated on the design of the Pepsi Pavilion for Expo '70, Osaka, Japan, a project of Experiments in Art and Technology. With the visual artist



Composer at the electronic keyboard... David Tudor

Jacqueline Mommier, he developed a kite environment that was installed at the Whitney Museum in New York in 1986, in Düsseldorf in 1988, and at the Jack Tilton Gallery in New York in 1990. Other collaborators included the filmmaker Molly Davies, the choreographer Viola Farber, and the painter Robert Rauschenberg.

He was a great cook, particularly of the cuisine of India, where he had spent much time. "John Cage said David had a golden ear," Merce Cunningham said recently, and added, "that he did, but he also had a marvellous sense of humour." In general, Tudor's contribution to the life and work of the Cunningham company was more than just musical, as much as Cunningham and Cage themselves, he personified its philosophy.

rehearsing an extremely complex solo, one of the first he had choreographed with chance processes, he sat down in despair. Tudor then remarked: "Well, this is clearly impossible — but we'll go right ahead and do it anyway."

Jackdaw



REACH Out & Smell Something (TM): RealAroma (R) introduces a whole new dimension to the man/machine interface game. The dimension of smell. With the RealAroma Drive (TM), and RATML (SM) (Real Aroma Text Markup Language) you can share smells in real time over the Internet, with olfactory buddies all over the globe. Because all smell conversion is done locally in the RealAroma Drive (C) itself, bandwidth requirements are extremely low and even users of embarrassing 14.4k baud modems can enjoy the odours you concoct. This all seems so

futuristic and fantastical? It is, but the fantastic future has arrived. Our patented 3-Vile (TM) System allows us to precisely control the amount and "flavour" of each and every smell. And because it's digital, you can sniff your favourite smell anytime with the click of a mouse. Teamed up with the RATML protocol, you can now communicate with smell, just as you do with words, pictures and sounds. Here are some of the features: Long-Lasting, "no residue" Formula * Modern Design * SCSI Interface * Firewall Support * Open Architecture (includes code for FREE!) * Get Yours Today! CALL: XXX-XXXX (Due to tremendous demand, orders have been suspended to allow manufacturing to catch up). Below is the list of System Smells (TM) and as we add smells in the future, you can come here to sample them right away. Ballet slipper, campfire, cat spray, cheese dip, blue food, burnt hair, baby sweat, chipped paint (lead-based), diaper (empty), diaper (full), diaper (full, 3

days in hamper), halitosis. The only smell here seems to be distinctly fishy, decide for yourselves at www.realaroma.com/ Strange vision PILGRIMS and sightseers are flocking into a small country church in South Australia to see a vision on the altar wall. "When it first appeared I shared it with the people, and they said: 'Well, yes, if you squint and think good thoughts... maybe...'" But now everyone is coming in," said the priest, the Revd Andrew Nutter. The Tablet's supernatural tales, thanks to Diana Caypey.

Fold away WITH the rise in popularity of telecommuting, keeping control of your workspace has become a real headache — nobody wants to share a desk, even if they are not at work most of the time. Hawthorth's correspondent solves the problem neatly. An office-in-a-box, the cherry-veneered Correspondent provides plenty of desk space,

lacked and marker boards — everything your old desk offered. But when the day's over, this workspace folds down into a handy box. You could even put it in the boot of your car. Wired magazine brings a new meaning to taking your work home with you.

Clock in SAM: Male hormones are up with the dawn chorus, so it's an ideal time for making love... if only you could persuade her. By some freakish oversight of nature, female hormones don't get going until late evening. 8.30AM: If she cools your arbour with the old "ironing board round the head" trick, she's picked the perfect time. Levels of pain-killing endorphins are highest now. Make use of them by visiting the doctor, dentist or bank manager before lunch. 9-12AM: The brain is raring to go. Get your active thinking and difficult work out of the way first. 1PM: If you're trying to lose weight, make lunch (or even breakfast) the main meal of

your day — you'll burn calories more efficiently. 2-3PM: The scientifically proven post-lunch dip. It's a natural phenomenon which occurs whether you choose the three-course special or a salad. 4-5PM: The afternoon slump. Get up and make your coffee. 6-7PM: Your strength increases through the day and peaks by early evening. Hit the gym straight after work, before you get a chance to feel tired. 7-8PM: Last orders for alcohol. The liver still has time to get rid of it before everything slows down. 10-11PM: More sleep hormone and less adrenaline is produced; heart rate, blood pressure and breathing slow down. Stay asleep as long as possible: by 3am, you have a higher chance of having an accident. If only that rampant, hormonal woman next to you would leave you alone. Men's Health advises how to clock-on to yourself.

Feeling good

ACCORDING to a survey conducted by the Gallup organisation, a majority of Americans prefer good things over bad things. Specifically, 72 per cent of poll respondents said that good things make their lives better, and bad things make their lives worse. "These findings are significant," said Gallup spokesperson Sharon Krassner-Gleim. "A large ma-



majority of Americans are saying that they would rather experience good things than have to deal with bad things. This is quite intriguing. "Americans generally agree on what is good and what is bad as well, Gallup revealed. Seventy-nine per cent believe that getting high by lighting is bad, and an impressive 95 per cent shared similar feelings about being run over by a bus. Fifty-seven per cent felt that ice cream was good, and 72 per cent agreed on the essential goodness of shoes."

When asked to compare various things and actions, 64 per cent of those polled believed sniffing a posy to be better than inserting one's hand into a kilt, and 82 per cent preferred crocheted tea cozies over excruciation by a Chilean death squad. "Put in layman's terms, we tend to associate bad with things that can do us potential harm, whether mental or physical, and good with things that can benefit us in a wide variety of ways," Krassner-Gleim said. "For example, I myself happen to believe that earning \$70,000 as chief spokesperson of a major polling organisation to be a good thing, and is better

Births

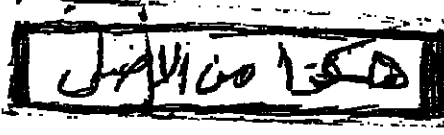
BRIDGEMAN, David and Victoria, a son, Rory John Michael, 28 August.

Birthdays

RUSSELL, 31. 31st August 1996, aged 86. Ingeborg Elizabeth (Dorothy) Bridgeman, nee Goodwin, widow of the late George, mother of Janet and John, nee Goodwin. Private funeral and cremation at St. Andrew's Church, Brixton, on 29th August at 11.00 am. Friends invited to St. Andrew's Church, Brixton, on 29th August at 11.00 am. In lieu of flowers. Condolences accepted at 11.00 am.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: A Memorial Service for John Theobald will be held at noon on Tuesday 29th September 1996 at St. Peter's Church, Fleet Street, London EC4A. Friends are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers. Condolences accepted at 11.00 am.

Emily Sheffield



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Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Mile Eye



Heat treatment... Fountains set among the marble of Broadgate provide a place to cool off in the August sun

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILTICE

'We're not talking to anyone,' insists Woolwich as disposal by top life insurer revives bid speculation

Pru sells M&G for £1.75bn

Pauline Springett

PRUENTIAL, the UK's largest life insurer, yesterday unveiled the £1.75 billion sale of its Mercantile and General reinsurance arm to Swiss Re, reigniting speculation that it is poised to make a bid for the Woolwich building society.

Prudential announced earlier this summer that it was planning a partial flotation of M&G, which it said was not part of its core life business. That announcement was widely interpreted by the City as a ploy to attract trade bid-

ders and in recent weeks the Pru was rumoured to have received several offers. Peter Davis, chief executive of the Pru, said the deal was good news for the company's shareholders. "We look on it as being very satisfactory," he said. "It was clearly better than floating. We got a higher price and we got it in one hit."

Swiss Re has paid £1.704 billion in cash, but the Pru is also receiving a special dividend of £50 million, which represents surplus cash in the M&G business. The market had expected M&G to float with a capitalisation of between £1 billion and £1.5 billion, but the Pru

had been expecting to net initial cash proceeds of only around £500 million because the flotation would have been partial. M&G would have been the only listed reinsurance company and its shares would, therefore, have been tricky to price. The Pru has made no secret of its desire to buy either a life assurance company or a building society. It has been linked with a host of possible candidates, including the Woolwich, the Alliance & Leicester building society and mutual insurers Friends Provident and Scottish Widows.

Mr Davis declined to be specific about his plans. He said the financial services sector was consolidating rapidly; banks, building societies and life insurance companies were acquiring each other. "We want to be part of that," he said, with a reminder that the company was poised to launch its own banking operation in October. There has been a flurry of takeovers within the financial services industry this year and the life insurance sector has been particularly active. The large deals include the acquisition of Clerical and Medical by the Halifax building society and the merger of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance. There have

Notebook

Speeding into premier league



Edited by Alex Brummer

A TRADE sale of the Mercantile & General alliance is going to offer a neater solution to the Prudential, once it had decided to offload its reinsurance subsidiary. The mooted flotation would have been slower. The advice was in two tranches; that it may well have raised less than the £1.75 billion which would have had to contend with market uncertainties not the least of which is the unfamiliarity of UK investors with the reinsurance business.

means that the starting gun has been fired in the Pru's sprint to remain in the first rank of the UK's financial services groups.

Simpson's reward

THE process, by which George Simpson emerged as the next managing director of GEC may have been less ordered than was desirable, but the manner in which he is being employed looks exemplary. Instead of allowing the terms and conditions of Mr Simpson's contract to drift into the public domain, as is often the case when there is a transfer of business leadership, GEC took the important decision to make the new managing director's contract available for general inspection. Normally, access to such contracts is only offered to shareholders, by appointment and often under strictly controlled conditions.

It is not, however, just the disclosure which is useful. Lords Prior and Weinstock — who were ultimately responsible for employing Mr Simpson — brought him across without compromising GEC's reputation for being as careful as possible with shareholders' funds. The transfer fee of £500,000 seems reasonable given that it is simply making good on a bonus which Mr Simpson loses as a result of cutting short his tenure at Lucas: besides in the post-Euro 96 Alan Shearer era it could be regarded as positively stingy. Moreover, the basic salary of £800,000 looks relatively modest given some of the extravagant salaries in the boardroom of companies responsible for far less manufacturing employment in the UK and much more modest contributions to Britain's exports.

If, as expected, Mr Simpson's arrival does usher in some change at GEC and eventually, perhaps, a higher share price than under the long-term bonus scheme he could eventually emerge a very rich person. However, anyone taking responsibility for such a large part of Britain's remaining manufacturing capacity, from turbines to avionics and sea-going defence platforms, and improving their value to shareholders, will deserve to be properly rewarded.

Risk takers

World's ten largest reinsurance companies. Net Premium, 1994. US\$bn.

Munich Re Group	2,325
Swiss Re Group	1,950
Cologne Re Group	1,425
Employers Re Group	1,275
Hanover Re/Eilen & Stahl Re	1,225
General Re Group	1,175
Gerling Global Re Group	1,125
Assicurazioni Generali	1,075
M&G Group	1,025
Frankona Re Group	975

Reinsurance firms are at a premium

Outlook

Pauline Springett

SWISS Re's decision to pounce on M & G is just the latest evidence that the world reinsurance market is consolidating rapidly. According to Philip Marcell, chairman of the London Insurance and Reinsurance Market (LIRMA), there may soon be no more than 10 "truly global" reinsurance companies left. Marcell said there would always be room for the smaller niche players but that the overwhelming

trend was towards a few big companies. A quick glance at statistics provided by LIRMA illustrates the point that the reinsurance market is shrinking. Only six years ago, there were 400 syndicates at Lloyd's of London, 133 companies at LIRMA, and 118 at its rival, the Institute of London Underwriters. By the start of this year those numbers had dwindled to 167, 100 and 58, respectively. Reinsurance is the backbone of the insurance market. As the name suggests, it protects companies themselves. An insurance company issues the policy to the client then

passes on a proportion of that policy to a reinsurance company. All sorts of risks are reinsured, from simple motor to complicated liability and catastrophe policies. The higher the risk attached to the policy, the greater the proportion reinsured. To complicate matters further, reinsurers also reinsure each other. This summer has been punctuated by a series of takeover deals in the sector as the leading players jockey for position. The largest deals include the announcement that the huge US reinsurer General Re was planning to buy its rival National Re. Earlier this month, Munich Re

bought the US company American Re for £2.1 billion. Mr Marcell said that 10 years ago it was considered satisfactory for a reinsurer to have around £5 million of capital behind it. These days, he said, companies need a minimum of around £45 million in order just to start business. Small companies are employed with suspicion, because many reinsurers have gone bust in recent years, he said. "What a reinsurer does is promise to pay in five, 10 or 15 years time. Which means that the successful reinsurers are those whose coffers are big enough to ensure they will still exist when pay day comes."

Lloyds's saviour

AFTER all the hype about potential insolvency, the verdict from the Balmis courtrooms effectively clears the way for Lloyds to go ahead with its £3.2 billion reconstruction plan. With more than 82 per cent of Names, including some of the most injured, on board, it would have been extraordinary if the US legal system had caused the deal to founder. Nevertheless, the demand of US Names for full and complete disclosure of every aspect of the deal, in accordance with Securities & Exchange Commission rules, is far from fanciful and worth considering on a voluntary basis as Lloyd's seeks to rebuild its reputation.

New GEC boss beats Weinstock's salary

... but aspects of George Simpson's package are frugal, writes ROGER COWE

GEORGE SIMPSON, the new managing director of GEC, will be paid more than his predecessor, Lord Weinstock, who will step down at next Friday's annual meeting after 33 years in the job.

In an unusual move, the electronics giant yesterday revealed Mr Simpson's contract, which provides for a £500,000 per annum basic salary — £50,000 more than Lord Weinstock's salary for last year as revealed in the annual report.

Mr Simpson's pay may be increased each year, but cannot fall. Mr Simpson will also receive a "signing-on fee" of £500,000 as compensation for losing out on the long-term bonus scheme at Lucas. He has been chief executive

of the engineering group for two and a half years, following a career in the car industry which came to an end at British Aerospace after handling the sale of Rover to BMW.

The rest of Mr Simpson's contract is broadly in line with common executive practice in the wake of the Greenbury committee requirements. But it shows some signs of GEC's frugality. For example, Mr Simpson will get a car appropriate to his status, plus the services of a chauffeur. But unlike even middle managers in many companies, Mr Simpson will not be required to pay for his own private mileage. He will also have to pay for his membership of GEC's Supra private health scheme.

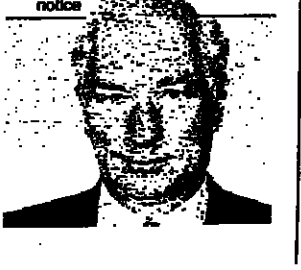
On top of what the contract describes as "normal working hours", he will be required to work "such further time as may reasonably be required" to properly perform his duties.

But he is not allowed to have outside directorships, which means he has to resign posts at Pilkington and ICL. If the GEC remuneration committee considers that he has performed well, however, and if the GEC share price rises, he will receive much more than his £600,000 a year. An annual bonus worth up to half his salary can be awarded by the remuneration committee each year. Half of that will be paid in shares.

In addition, and in common with most large companies, Mr Simpson will be awarded share options and "phantom shares" as part of a long-term incentive scheme. Options may be granted up to the value of four times his basic salary, while the long-term scheme can also pay out up to that £2.4 million after four years — but only if

Nice little earner

- £200,000 a year "signing-on fee"
- £200,000 a year basic salary
- Bonus up to £300,000 a year, based on performance
- Share options up to four times salary
- Long-term bonus up to four times salary, based on share price performance
- Car plus chauffeur, but pays private mileage
- 25 days holiday
- Contributions to pension fund up to £250,000 a year
- 3-year contract, then 12 months' notice



Treasury set to turn London home into flats for wealthy

Sarah Ryle and Ian King

THE Treasury confirmed last night it is set to sign a deal to redevelop its prime Whitehall site which could include multi-million pound luxury apartments.

The deal is being set up under the much-maligned private finance initiative. Two rival bidders for the listed building in Great George Street will shortly be told which plan has won Treasury approval and the chance to offer the ultimate in London addresses to the wealthy.

If the flats get the go-ahead, a handful of residents will enjoy views over St James' Park rivalled only by The Queen at the other end of The Mall. It could follow the New York trend where the decision to turn the Stock Exchange into condominiums has given people top addresses at the establishing heart.

The Treasury is keen to see the £200 million bid completed but risks fresh anger about the sell-off of public assets on the cheap.

Much of the £200 million capital cost of the project could be quickly recouped, according to estimates by specialist estate agents Knight Frank. The agency estimated that top-quality flats with long leases in such a prime location would sell for about £2.5 million each at today's prices.

The rival bidders are led by Stuart Lipton and Godfrey Bradman, two of Britain's most controversial property developers, whose companies worked together on the Ludgate and Broadgate schemes — among London's biggest-ever office projects — in the 1980s.

Until now, bids for the Treasury building were expected to focus on office development alongside the government departments which occupy just one half of the floorspace.

A leading property analyst said last night: "They're both still capable of sourcing the finance, which is key to it, but their reputation is tarnished, because they both went bust."

Thought to be in pole position is Mr Lipton, whose company, Stanhope Properties, was recently bought out by British Land. He heads a consortium including Bovis, the construction

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.81	France 7.59	Italy 2.304	Singapore 2.14
Austria 15.85	Germany 2.250	Japan 108.10	South Africa 6.25
Belgium 45.79	Greece 338.00	Netherlands 2.4875	Spain 168.10
Canada 2.0225	Hong Kong 11.74	New Zealand 2.1800	Sweden 10.09
Cyprus 0.89	India 53.50	Norway 2.2275	Switzerland 1.7250
Denmark 6.0375	Ireland 0.8225	Portugal 229.25	Turkey 129.419
Finland 6.90	Israel 4.89	Saudi Arabia 3.81	USA 1.5220

Supplied by Reuters Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel)

Could Asda saviour answer the Conservative election call?

Archie takes a step back

Roger Cowe

ARCHIE NORMAN, the man credited with the revival of the supermarket group Asda, yesterday signalled his intention to step back from the day-to-day management, possibly in preparation for a political career.

The 42-year-old chief executive will take over from outgoing chairman Patrick Gilliam at the end of the year, but does not yet know how much time he will devote to the company.

A spokeswoman said Asda would remain his top priority but could not comment on his political ambitions. He has been an approved Conservative parliamentary candidate for several years, and was mooted as a potential MP for Harrogate and other seats in Yorkshire, where Asda is based.

"He will be full-time until the end of the year and he may well continue full-time after that," the spokeswoman said. "It depends on the needs of the business."

Mr Norman will be succeeded by Allan Leighton, the former marketing director who has been deputy chief executive since April last year. He will take over as chief executive immediately after the company's annual shareholder meeting on September 11, when Mr Norman becomes chairman designate.

The City reacted to the announcement with some nervousness and the company's shares fell by 4p to 115.5p. But most observers regarded the move as a natural progression, unlikely to disturb Asda's progress.

"The market has been expecting Archie to hang around indefinitely," one analyst commented. "I think it means Asda is be-

coming rather boring for Archie — but this is not a bad arrangement. It means Asda still has access to his skills."

The current chairman, Patrick Gilliam, said the move signalled the completion of Asda's recovery. "After five years of comprehensive change in Asda's organisation and trading format and the development of a complete new team, the task of rebuilding Asda is complete," he said.

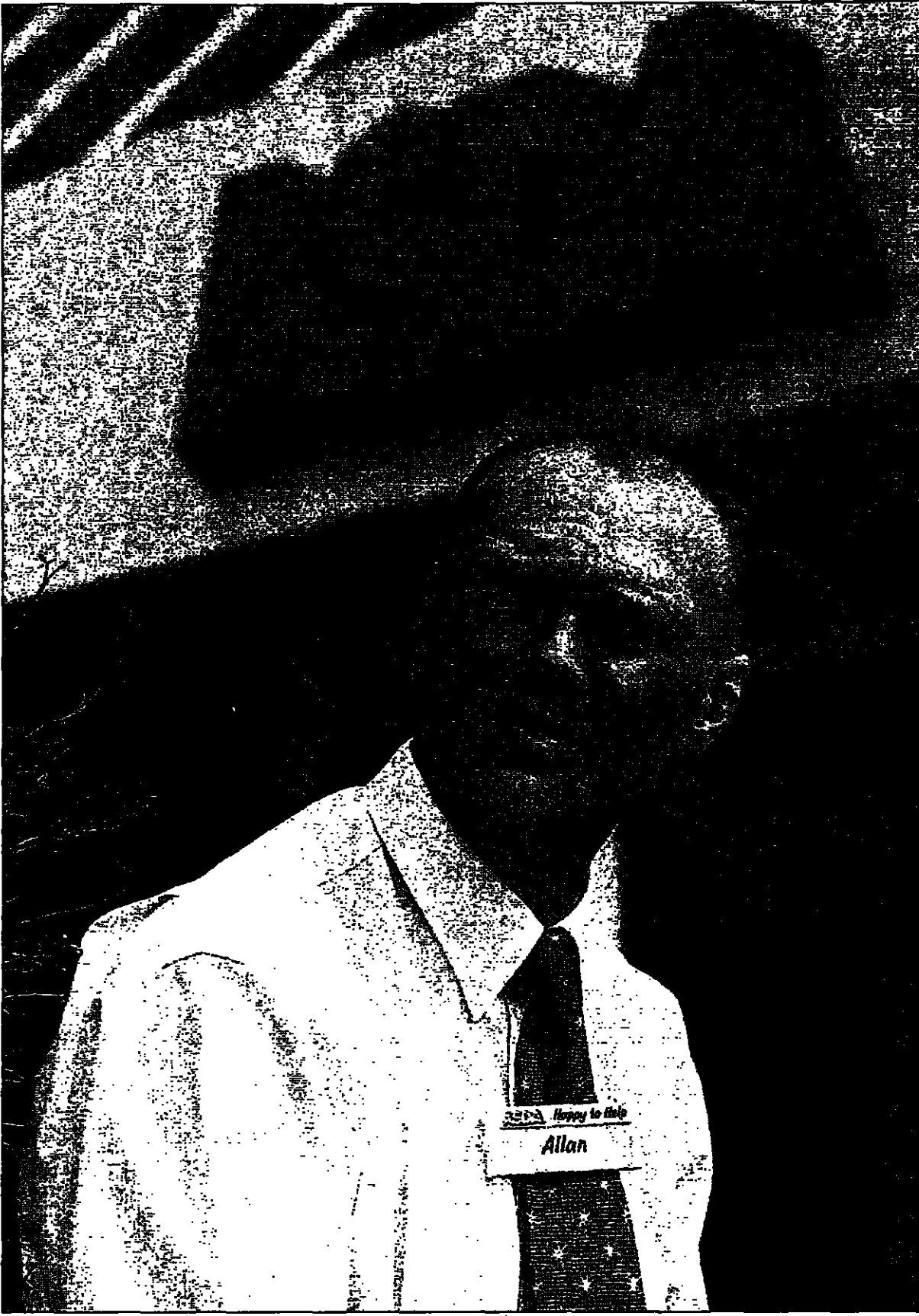
Asda paid tribute to Mr Gilliam, who organised a financial restructuring after the group hit trouble in 1991. He also recruited Mr Norman, who was financial director of the Woolworths and B&Q group, Kingfisher. He previously had a high-flying career at consultants McKinsey.

Under this leadership team, Asda has emerged as a serious competitor to the supermarket leaders, Sainsbury and Tesco. Mr Norman's strategy has been to revert to a cheap and cheerful stance, targeting families in the North and Midlands.

He has pursued that strategy with the help of high-profile, populist campaigns against price maintenance and the taxing of share option profits for ordinary employees. He paints himself and his company as champions of the people.

Mr Norman has also hit the headlines because of his pay packet. Last year, he pocketed more than £2 million after cashing in share options, on top of £548,000 in salary and bonus.

Asda is embroiled in a battle with the Office of Fair Trading over the price of vitamins and drugs. It wants to increase the number of pharmacies in its stores and to be allowed to cut prices of non-prescription drugs.



Taking over... Allan Leighton, who will succeed Archie Norman as chief executive of Asda after the annual shareholder meeting next week. PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN ANGERSON

New 'open skies' storm shakes BA

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

AMERICA yesterday threw the planned alliance between British Airways and American Airlines into jeopardy when it unexpectedly cancelled "open skies" talks aimed at opening the transatlantic airline market to free competition.

The decision, which surprised both BA and American, came after American transport officials accused Britain's latest proposals of being an "inadequate" basis for discussion.

The talks, which reopened in July, were due to resume today in Washington, but a US Department of Transportation official said the UK position fell "far short" of American expectations. British negotiators did not even bother packing their bags. Without an open skies agreement, the planned alliance between the two airlines — which many see as a precursor to a full merger — would collapse, leaving BA boss Bob Ayling's blueprint for the airline's future in tatters.

American said it was "surprised and disappointed", adding: "We hope that his delay is a temporary one."

"It's bluff and counterbluff," said Chris Partridge, an airline analyst with Avmark International in London. "The stakes are very high, and both sides want to be seen to be getting a result."

BA shares slumped 3p to 52p on the news. While BA and American want to resume operations by next April, the main area of dispute is the American government's insistence that US carriers be given greater access to Heathrow. Britain, meanwhile,

wants its carriers to be able to fly in the lucrative US domestic market, a right given so far in only limited form to BA and Virgin.

However, US officials indicated yesterday that the talks were broader than the right to greater Heathrow access. The US wants so-called "beyond" rights for its carriers to fly on from London to markets like Europe and Asia.

The US maintains it already gives all foreign carriers the right to fly on to markets outside its borders. But Britain claims the American position is so large it should be considered a "beyond" market of its own.

Last night, Britain's Department of Transport said that while it was surprised at the cancellation of the talks, it was planning fresh proposals to put to the Americans. The view from London is that this is only a hiccup in a long running saga and that the talks will soon be resumed.

Industry analysts said the postponement of talks was worrying for both companies. They said that if BA failed to conclude its pact with American, it would fall behind in the global market battle as many other carriers have already formed alliances.

BA says around half of its passengers between London and the US are connections from other flights, but that it is losing some of them to hubs such as Frankfurt, which is controlled by the Lufthansa-United alliance. American has said it might renew alliance talks with Air France if the BA pact is blocked.

A new "open skies" agreement across the Atlantic would be a strong election filip for President Clinton, but he has to balance that against the growing opposition to the BA alliance among other American carriers.

Boeing hires 5,000 to lift jet production

BOEING is to hire more than 5,000 extra staff than originally planned this year in a move that will boost monthly production of the 777 jet by 40 per cent, writes Keith Harper.

The world's largest commercial planemaker will increase total staff to 118,350 by the end of the year, reflecting the renewed spending power of leading airlines as they move out of recession.

About 8,800 new employees will work at the company's Washington state facilities, while a further 3,300 will be taken on at Wichita, Kansas.

This reflects Boeing's confidence in the best selling 777, which has quickly become a popular aircraft with the world's airlines. British Airways is taking delivery of

\$2 billion worth of the aircraft over the next few years, adding to its Middle East fleet.

The recruitment will put increased pressure on Airbus competitor, to increase sales of its A340. Both companies are expected to promote their own triumphs at the Farnborough Air Show next week.

Boeing said that by July next year, monthly production of the 777 would rise from five to seven. Introduced last year, the 777 can carry between 305 to 440 passengers, depending on seat configuration. It has an order backlog of 24 for the European market.

Airbus is looking at a number of projects, including a less noisy engine and sleeping cabins, to get ahead in the race for bigger aircraft.

London bosses failed to act with 'care and diligence' SFA punishes Barings directors

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

THREE former directors of Barings Bank yesterday stripped of the right to work in the investment industry for periods of up to three years, after the Securities and Futures Authority determined that they had failed "to act with due skill, care and diligence" prior to the bank's collapse.

The SFA's decision to discipline George Maclean, Anthony Hawes and Anthony Gamby follows a lengthy investigation into why the bank failed to notice the disastrous derivative deals by "rogue trader" Nick Leeson, which eventually brought down Barings, the City's oldest merchant bank, with losses of more than £800 million.

It brings to five the number of Barings directors reprimanded over the affair. Chief executive Peter Norris and director Geoffrey Broadhurst have already had their SFA registrations suspended for up to three years. The conclusions of investigations into four other directors are still pending.

The SFA said yesterday that Anthony Hawes, former group treasurer of Barings Securities, has been struck off the SFA register for at least three years. He was ordered to pay £10,000 legal costs.

The City regulator added: "Between April 1993 and 24 February 1995, Mr Hawes failed properly to understand,

control and reconcile the provision of margin to Barings (Futures) Singapore or to ensure that this was done."

It continued: "Mr Hawes was one of those responsible for giving assurances to Simex (the Singapore trading authority) in a letter of 10 February 1995. The assurances 'assumed that the manner in which the switching business was funded and monitored was adequate' — an assumption which was 'without foundation'."

George Maclean, head of the banking group of Barings Investment Bank, had his SFA registration suspended for two years and was ordered to pay £10,000 costs.

The SFA said that Simex had raised queries regarding the business of BPS in 1995 and Mr Maclean had been one of those responsible for compiling the response. The assurances given were "without any reasonable foundation."

The SFA, Mr Maclean failed to take "any proper steps to satisfy himself that those assurances were properly given."

Anthony Gamby, former director of settlements for Barings Investment Bank, was reprimanded and his registration with the SFA has been suspended for a year. He must pay £5,000 towards the SFA's costs.

The City watchdog said that it was the responsibility of the settlements department with treasury and financial control, to ensure that the funding requests received from BPS were properly understood and reconciled.

"Substantial and increasing amounts were remitted to BPS which were not reconciled as they should have been."

News in brief

Caradon clear-out to bring in £200m

CARADON, the heating and plumbing group, is to sell most of its engineering and distribution businesses as part of a strategy to concentrate on its main building materials operations. It expects to raise almost £200 million from the buy-out of 15 businesses which should be completed by the end of the year.

Chief executive Peter Jansen said the company has no plans to sell its US cheque printing business, which he described as "highly cash generative and a centre of excellence for the group". But Caradon is expected to dispose of motor industry operations, possible investing the proceeds in building industry acquisitions. — *Bloomberg*

Bank 'heavyweight' overcomes Leeson rebukes to join Nomura's struggle for European business

BRIAN QUINN, who was head of banking supervision at the Bank of England when Nick Leeson brought down Barings, is to join Nomura, the Japanese financial institution, as non-executive chairman, writes Patrick Donovan.

The appointment of such a heavyweight City name represents a coup for Nomura, which has been struggling hard to establish itself as a leading player in the European financial markets. The Japanese bank recently has been forced to scale back its equity research capacity because of falling market share of trading on the London Stock Exchange.

The 59-year-old Mr Quinn, who recently retired after more than 20 years at the Bank of England, came under criticism last year after the Barings collapse.

The merchant bank had overstepped Bank of England regulations governing how much money a UK bank can transfer overseas, although at the time nothing had been done about it.

Mr Quinn will initially work alongside Andreas Prindl, who has been chairman since 1989. But he is scheduled to take over sole control after Mr Prindl retires next year.

"We are delighted to have appointed someone of Brian Quinn's international prominence," said Hitoshi Tonomura, chairman of Nomura's European management committee.

"His unparalleled experience makes him a natural successor in this role," he added.

An economist, Mr Quinn came to the Bank of England from the International Monetary Fund, where he specialised in African economies.

As the head of banking supervision and surveillance, Mr Quinn was responsible for monitoring the financial health of the more than 500 banks in the UK that report to the Bank of England.

Microsoft duo reduce stake

MICROSOFT'S co-founders, Bill Gates and Paul Allen, are planning to sell up to 500,000 shares each in a move which could raise about \$124 million (£82.5 million). However their decision is unlikely to spark off widespread dumping of the stock which hit a record share price of \$125.25 earlier this month.

Both executives have reduced their Microsoft stakes in the past as part of their financial planning and analysts believe that the latest sales are more of the same.

Mr Allen is the largest shareholder after Mr Gates who owns 53 million shares. — *Nicholas Barnister*

Compass circles US caterers

SHARES of Compass, Britain's biggest contract catering group, jumped 74p to 536.4p yesterday after the company said it was buying Service America, a contract catering business owned by GE Capital, for \$77.1 million.

Compass, which will make a \$8.5 million charge against profits to reflect the acquisition, said the deal covered Service America's food service operations but not its recreation division.

The business employs nearly 18,000 staff, has over 7,000 customers throughout the US, but reported losses of \$8.5 million in its latest full year accounts. — *Ian King*

United looks north

UNITED News & Media is to sell its local newspapers in Wales and the South-east so it can focus on its primary areas in the north of England.

The group's main titles include the Yorkshire Post, Yorkshire Evening Post and the Sheffield Star plus the Lancashire Evening Post. It also operates one of the north's leading newspaper printing centres at Eroughton near Preston.

United Provincial Newspapers, the company's regional newspaper division, is the third largest regional publisher in the UK. Included in the sale will be UPN South East, which includes 28 separate free weekly newspapers in London and the surrounding area, and UPN South Wales, which has a portfolio of 19 free and paid-for titles, including the daily South Wales Argus. — *Reuter*

Nappy-maker changes hands

FRENCH nappy-maker Pseudouce will be part of an asset-swapping deal between Sweden's Svenska Cellulosa forestry company and Kimberly-Clark of the United States. The deal will give Svenska 16 per cent of the British tissue market.

Under the terms of the swap, Kimberly will take Pseudouce from Svenska which, in turn, will be given Kimberly's Purchloe tissue factory in Britain. — *Bloomberg*

Boost for American economy

NEW evidence that the American economy is gaining strength emerged yesterday as consumer confidence levels hit a six-year high.

The rise in the Conference Board's index, the second in a row, bucked expectation of a July decline and renewed speculation about the need to restrain inflation with an interest rate rise. Although the index was strong, the data's overall impact was hit by weaker optimism about job prospects. — *Sarah Kyle*

Barclays and NatWest sued in US

Patrick Donovan

BARCLAYS and NatWest are being sued in the American courts over allegations that they attempted to drive a rival currency exchange dealer out of business.

Chequepoint Worldwide, a small privately-held US company which specialises in currency changing and international money transfers, is claiming that both banks infringed US anti-trust law and is claiming unspecified damages.

According to the lawsuit, Barclays suddenly stopped doing business with Chequepoint in May 1993 and then

intervened to block Chequepoint from establishing a relationship with NatWest.

It alleges that the British banks have used irregular means to try to limit competition within the currency exchange market.

The suit was filed last week, citing US laws which prohibit companies from attempting to stifle legitimate commercial competition. Chequepoint's lawyers, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone were last night unavailable for comment.

Both banks yesterday said that the lawsuit will be contested.

A spokesman for NatWest confirmed that the summons had been received and would

be defended but declined to go into further details.

But the lawsuit is likely to involve relatively small sums compared to the assets of both British banks. Chequepoint, which is the American subsidiary of Capital Currency Exchange, which is based in the Netherlands Antilles, is understood to have net assets of around \$60 million (£40 million).

The parent company has 130 branches in the US and operations in 10 countries across Europe and Asia. It is best known for operating 24-hour kiosks offering currency exchange services which are predominately aimed at the tourist market.

Banking analysts yesterday

said there was some "potential overlap" in the commercial operations of Barclays, NatWest and Chequepoint.

However, one added: "The sums involved here are peanuts compared to the resources of NatWest and Barclays."

"These are after all huge international banks and their operations are quite different to those of Chequepoint even though they may be competing to some extent in the foreign exchange market. And even here, Chequepoint would seem to be addressing a completely different market segment as they offer round-the-clock services, predominately aimed at the tourist market."

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Cricket

Mike Selvey suggests toil on technique to remedy the chronic shortcomings of England's attack as underlined by a master of the art

Wasim exposes the chasm

IF EVER there was an illustration of the chasm that English bowlers must cross before they can compete with the best in the world, it came late on Monday afternoon. Wasim Akram had taken 236 wickets in Tests and with two more English batsmen there for the taking, was keen to get the 300...



Out and away... Wasim celebrates one of his 300 Test wickets

Waqar signed by Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN beat some of the more fashionable counties to sign the Pakistani pace bowler Waqar Younis on a reported £200,000 two-year contract. Waqar said: "They seem a very ambitious club with some very good players and with a clear idea of how I would fit into their plans."



Waqar, £200,000 deal

Worcester (N.H.)

Table of horse racing results for Worcester (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and times.

Brighton card

Table of horse racing results for Brighton, including race numbers, names, and times.

Carlisle with guide to the latest form

Table of horse racing results for Carlisle, including race numbers, names, and times.

SPORTS NEWS 13

Racing

Cecil keen to make his mark with Bosra

Under the four-day suspension picked up by Frankie Dettori at Deauville on Sunday will not count in the Jockey Club's "trotting-up" procedure. This means that in the category of irresponsible riding Dettori's cumulative score is eight days so far this season. After 12 days and another offence he would automatically be out for a fortnight.

Trainer McCormack calls it a day

MATT McCormack, who sent out Horage to win the 1983 St James's Palace Stakes from his small stable at Sparsholt, is getting out of racing after 40 years in the game. McCormack, 56, commented: "I've got a few quid put aside and I'm damned if I'm going to surrender that trying to buy horses for owners who aren't there to see how she is."

Rising lowers Royal colours

ROYAL Philosopher, trained by John Hills, was a creditable fourth behind Rising Colours in the one mile Prix Guiney at Deauville yesterday. Hills also had to settle for fourth in the Prix Michel Houyvet when Albatross, ridden by Frankie Dettori, was beaten just over five and a half lengths by Balkanum.

Blundered for the first time

Blundered for the first time yesterday: BRIGHTON 2.50 One In The Sun; 4.50 Impending Time; CARLISLE 2.10 Latvian; 4.40 Clash of Swords; WORCESTER 2.00 Disco's Well; 2.50 Cheer's

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and times.

UTTOXETER

Table of horse racing results for Uttoxeter, including race numbers, names, and times.

RIPON

Table of horse racing results for Ripon, including race numbers, names, and times.

PLACESTOP

Table of horse racing results for Placestop, including race numbers, names, and times.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a grid of numbers and the text 'BRIGHTON CARLISLE WORCESTER'.

Soccer

What price the touch of Graham?

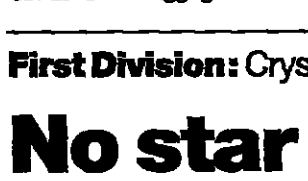
Martin Thorpe on a feasible marriage of convenience at City

SO George Graham could finally be back in football. Two months after the expiry of his year-long ban, the phone may at last ring with the offer of the sort of quality job he has been anxiously awaiting.

But how would the City fans react to any Graham appointment in the wake of the bungs scandal that ended his days of managing Arsenal, not to mention his reputation for producing teams that play boring football — beggars the manager would bring with him?

"I don't think that would be a problem," says Dave Wallace, the editor of the Evening King of the Kippax and former chairman of the club. "We'd be happy to be bored for a couple of years if we could get back up there and start challenging again. We need a big name, someone everybody respects, someone with a track record we can trust and who can attract the top players."

There speaks a supporter



Graham... baggage

more than fed up with City's constant battles against relegation under their past two managers Alan Ball and Brian Horton.

How juicy then the prospect of employing a manager with an impeccable track record as Graham at Arsenal — two league titles, a Cup Winners' Cup win, an FA Cup and two League Cup triumphs. He also led Millwall up to the old Second Division in 1985, the division in which City find themselves now.

If Graham is perfect for City, the reverse is also true. He knows from the lack of high-quality approaches that it is going to be difficult to return at the level he left. Equally Graham's pride and self-worth would prevent him taking any old job. So City's reputation, their large support and scope for rebuilding are big enough to meet the Scot's requirements.

One area that would need early clarification is job demarcation. The chairman Francis Lee is known to run the club with a rod of iron — including, it is understood, stepping too close to team matters. He attends training every day, has allegedly entered the dressing-room at half-time to go up the side and was in the pre-season team picture. Graham would stand none of that.

"They would have to get an understanding straight away," says Wallace. "The chairman takes a back seat and becomes a chairman and he's there just for advice if George would want it. Maybe he would not be so reluctant to do that with someone as big as George Graham."

One thing is almost certain: the individualists in the team such as Georgios Kinkladze are unlikely to last long under Graham, one of whose mottos is "I do not like stars unless they are prepared to get their hands dirty".



Laughing it off... Gareth Southgate makes light of the past at Bishop Abbeey

Southgate's sense of history reveals leadership qualities

David Lacey finds the articulate England defender looking confidently forward after his recent spot of bother at Wembley

GARETH Southgate is probably no more a Marxist than he is a marksman, so the thought of history repeating itself as French farce in the 1996 World Cup is unlikely to dog the Aston Villa defender as England play their opening qualifier in Moldova on September 5.

Southgate, in case anyone has forgotten, is the Man Who Missed Liberty Valencia. That is to say he failed to score with England's sixth penalty in the European Championship semi-final at Wembley, leaving Andreas Müller to do the business for Germany.

While one's own feeling is that the opportunities passed up by Darren Anderson and Paul Gascoigne to win the match for England in what was a swartwick in the more culpable failures, Southgate inevitably became the focal point of the country's disappointment; but not to the country's credit, its vilification.

True, he did receive one aggrieved letter following the late night rioting in Trafalgar Square which the fateful penalty had unwittingly provoked. It read: "I've got to appear in court. It should be you."

Southgate would have replied that he knew the author's address; maybe the writer was uncertain where his next address might be. The 1,000-odd letters and faxes the player has received have been almost totally sympathetic, which has helped.

"There are players who regularly take penalties for their clubs. I'm not an expert at it at all. But I'll probably practice penalties a bit more than I did and, faced with a similar situation, I would have to take one again."

Before this could ever become even a remote possibility England fans have to reach the 1998 World Cup and then qualify for the knock-out stage in a 32-nation tournament. So Southgate can be reasonably sure that history has not got it in for him, even if fate did threaten to double-deal Pearce after a six-year interval.

Southgate's immediate aim must be to capitalise on a successful European championship which suggested that, having proved his versatility under Terry Venables, he is ready-made for the three-man defence envisaged by Glenn Hoddle. The free role at the back he has been given by Villa's manager Brian Little must help his cause.

First Division: Crystal Palace 0, West Bromwich Albion 0

No star turn at the new Palace

Martin Thorpe

TWO teams with Premiership aspirations produced neither the required inspiration nor persuasion last night in a colourless exhibition of very average football which, if repeated, should ensure their First Division status.

but in different ways. After Dave Bassett took over as Palace manager they came with a late burst that took them all the way to the play-off final. Albion started well but froze during the winter, losing 11 games on the trot before a spring recovery took them to mid-table.

One point from their first two games this season offered Albion little new optimism. Palace had also lost their first game but won at home on Saturday, yet despite their new strip they too hardly gave the appearance of promotion contenders in a tepid opening half.

45 minutes comprised Dyer's header just over from Roberts' free-kick, and a fine block by Palace's new keeper Day at the other end after Quinn's error let in Snelboes, who would have done better to pull the ball back for Taylor rather than shoot.

Given the general lack of action, some harsh words must have been spoken in the half-time dressing rooms and they produced an immediate response. A minute after the break Roberts, on the left, fired a ball into the Albion area which Ndah met with a smart swivel and shot that the visitors' veteran goalkeeper Spink just managed to get a hand to before the ball

Dropped McGrath blames Villa for ending his international run

PAUL McGRATH, dropped by the Republic of Ireland for their opening World Cup tie in Liechtenstein on Saturday, is prepared to leave the Premiership to resurrect his international career.

club has been told. Fortuna Cologne want a transfer fee because they claim a year's option on Beck. Middlesbrough regard him as a free agent under the Bosman ruling and refuse to pay.

Hendry doubt gives Brown cause for World Cup concern

CRAIG BROWN must have established a record yesterday when he assembled a Scotland World Cup squad which showed only two wickets from an original party of 22. But the manager refused to tamper providence by celebrating, as Colin Hendry may yet lift the total to three.

Scotland after a two-year absence and will form a front-line partnership with his former Rangers team-mate Ally McColist. But Hendry, a stalwart at the heart of the defence, worries Brown most.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Includes results for Soccer, Scottish League Cup, and Rugby Union.

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Teamtalk: The independent news and reports service. 0891 33 77+. Includes a list of football clubs and their positions.

Cricket: Second XI Championship. Includes details of matches between Bradford Yorkshire and other teams.

Rugby League: Broncos pass the Academy test with Salter selection. Includes details of the academy and player selection.

Golf: Course for complaint in Ryder race. Includes details of the Ryder Cup and course conditions.

Chess: Tiger Woods, the US amateur champion, has turned professional. Includes details of his career and recent performance.

THE END OF A CENTURY OF TRADITION LEADS TO OFF-FIELD MAULS AND RARE DISPLAYS OF OPPORTUNISM



Stepping into a brave new world... Rob Andrew teamed up with Sir John Hall at Newcastle; Jonathan Davies returned to Wales; Martin Bayfield gave up his day job; Philippe Sella crossed the Channel; and Scott Quimnell wanted a pay rise. Twelve months ago a once rigidly amateur game embraced professionalism. David Plummer looks at the growing pains of a pastime that has turned into a business

A year that shook the world of rugby union

August 27, 1995
THE International Board meeting in Paris, abandons 120 years of tradition and rugby union becomes the last major spectator sport to embrace professionalism. "Within two or three years a tiny percentage of professional rugby players will emerge at the top end of the game. They will have no other job. They will no longer be able to miss a league game because they want to attend a wedding," says Will Carling. The IB chairman Vernon Pugh says the abandonment of amateurism has been made to end hypocrisy. "We had a situation which tended to make honest men dishonest. The social and moral philosophy of an intensely competitive worldwide sport in 1995 is, rightly or wrongly, very different from that of the late 1890s and even of the late 1960s. The limited role of the IB has to change."

Rugby league professionals are told they will be able to return to union. Jonathan Davies has talks with Cardiff. The Welsh Rugby Union plans to employ its leading players on annual contracts of £20,000.

September 1995
NEWCASTLE Gosforth becomes Newcastle Rugby Football Club Ltd, an offshoot of Newcastle United FC, in a multi-million pound agreement. The RFU's chairman of marketing, Colin Herdridge, says a European Super League will be the salvation of the professional game.

England's lock Martin Bayfield asks for a five-year sabbatical from the police force to become a full-time rugby player. French clubs vote against full-blown professionalism. The RFU announces one-year moratorium on professionalism. First Division clubs in Wales form themselves into First Division Rugby Ltd. Ireland announce that only international players will be

'Players will no longer miss a league game to attend a wedding'
 Will Carling

paid in the new season. A players' union in England and Wales is set up. The RFU sets up a commission on professionalism. England's League One clubs declare a vote of no confidence in it. Five Nations meet to set up a European Cup. France declare their unhappiness over the proposed distribution of revenue from the competition. RFU and Scotland decide not to field sides until the following season.

Rob Andrew is appointed rugby director of Newcastle on a five-year contract worth £750,000. England's League One clubs form their own company, following Wales

and France. European Cup secures sponsorship from Heineken. ITV signs a four-year £20 million television deal.

October 1995
MEMBERS of the England squad refuse to sign professional contracts drawn up by the RFU because the terms have not been approved by their clubs. The IB prohibits club contracts from cutting across national requirements. Only unions may negotiate broadcasting rights. Jonathan Davies signs for Cardiff from Warrington for £70,000.

November 1995
ENGLAND's top clubs call for the introduction of transfer fees and professional contracts as well as a greater share of money from television and sponsorship deals agreed by the RFU. The RFU's commission on professionalism reports. Moratorium on professionalism to be lifted at the end of the season along with the 120-day qualification period for players moving clubs. Players will not be entitled to a percentage of transfer fees but will be allowed to negotiate a signing-on fee. Proposal that the Five Nations be moved to May. The millionaire Nigel Wray pumps £2.5m into Saracens.

Scotland draws up contracts for its national squad players worth more than £20,000 a man. The RFU sets aside £1.5m to pay for its top 50 players and its management team. The businessman Keith Barwell promises to invest £1m in Northampton.

December 1995
RFU and Rugby Football League plan two matches between Bath and Wigan to decide the best of the best. The Australian Rose Turrubull offers leading players £200,000 to play in an international summer circus. England players sign contracts with RFU worth £38,000.

January 1996
CLIFF BRITTLE to challenge John Jesvons-Fallows for the position of RFU executive committee chairman. Referees to receive £400 for controlling international matches. NEC injects £1.5m into Harlequins. Saracens sign Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sella. Brittle defeats Jesvons-Fallows by 647 votes to 352. Chaos predicted as professionalism is not accepted



Code-breakers... Tuigamala catches up with Sleightholme in one of two historic meetings between Wigan and Bath

by the clubs. First Division clubs renew their breakaway threat.

February 1996
ENGLAND's leading players are asked to sign contracts with their clubs. The Wales lock Gareth Llewellyn joins Harlequins in a six-figure deal. Sky bids to televise club rugby exclusively live in England and Wales. The millionaire Ashley Levett seeks to pump £2.5m into Richmond. Welsh referees threaten to strike in row over expenses.

March 1996
BATH members vote to turn the club into a plc. Clubs in England and Wales want to take over the running of the European Cup. Harlequins threaten legal action

against the WRU for holding Gareth Llewellyn to the 180-day qualification rule. WRU eventually backs down. English clubs draw up a contract which asks players to choose between club and country. England's leading players demand a minimum wage of £18,000. Special general meeting of the RFU agrees the game should go open. Union and leading clubs still deadlocked over contracts. Leading players in South Africa sign contracts worth £425,000 over three years.

April 1996
RFU offers players £44,000 to stay in Ireland after offers from English clubs. Wales, Scotland and Ireland threaten to eject England from the Five Nations in a row over television money. The RFU has given notice of its intention to pull out of joint negotiations and secure its own television deal. England announce £87.5m deal with Sky for the rights to all its rugby, including championship matches; Wales, Scotland and Ireland offered lesser deals. Brittle supporters announce plans to sack RFU secretary Tony Hallett.

May 1996
CLUBS insist on taking full control of the European Cup. Cardiff's prop Mike Grif fits signs £210,000 deal with Wasps. Richmond sign Scott Quimnell, having landed Ben Clarke, Andy Moore and Adrian Davies. RFU threatened with mutiny by its own players if England are kicked

out of the Five Nations. Brittle tries to abort RFU's Sky deal. Wales's top clubs offered £5m by the WRU not to break away. RFU and the First Division clubs agree a power-sharing package which allows the clubs a major say in sponsorship and television deals and the running of club competitions. The media tycoon Chris Wright bids to take control of Wasps and Queens Park

'We had a situation which tended to make honest men dishonest'
 Vernon Pugh

Rangers FC. Bath play Wigan in league and union.

June 1996
THE former England manager Geoff Cooke becomes director of rugby at Bedford after the club gets a £2m cash injection. RFU confirms Sky deal.

July 1996
WELSH RU rejects Sky offer. The businessman Andrew Brownsword puts £5m into Bath. WRU and clubs reach agreement over the way forward. Bill Bishop, outgoing RFU president, steps in to try to resolve the Five

Nations row. England thrown out of the Five Nations. Debutante holders threaten legal action against the RFU if England are not readmitted to the championship. England bid to play Australia, New Zealand and South Africa on a regular basis. Wales's clubs reach £2.5m deal with Sky for Welsh league and Anglo-Welsh matches. Rejected by the WRU, England's clubs again threaten to break away saying promises have been broken. Scott Gibbs signs for Swansea.

August 1996
ENGLAND make concessions to stay in the Five Nations. They are rejected because the RFU refuses to unscramble its Sky contract. England given until the end of the month to step into line. Row between England and Wales after the cancellation of challenge matches between the league and cup winners in both countries. WRU threatens legal action. Scott Quimnell threatens not to play for Wales again unless the WRU improves its £2,000 match fee. Welsh clubs threaten a players' strike unless the WRU accepts their Sky deal. Wigan players Henry Paul and Val'sa Tuigamala join Bath and Wasps respectively. England negotiate to play six Tests against the Southern Hemisphere superpowers next year. Brittle still working behind the scenes to save the Five Nations but fixtures are drawn up for a home-and-away Four Nations Championship without England.



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BT is the official sponsor of the British Paralympic Team

SportsGuardian

England in world series scheme

Robert Armstrong

TWICKENHAM is putting the finishing touches to a new gift-edged international fixture list for 1997 in response to England's likely exclusion by the other home unions from the Five Nations Championship.

Plans by Wales, Scotland and Ireland to set up an alternative championship along with France were discussed at a meeting in London last night. But they will be heavily overshadowed by an annual world Test series that brings England, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and France into regular competition.

The sport's major nations have shied away from formally introducing an annual world championship which would have undermined the status of the World Cup held every four years. However, each nation, with rare exceptions, will play a minimum of two Tests annually against all the others on a home-and-away basis.

The television rights to each Test outside the Southern Hemisphere's Tri-Nations series will be sold by the host union. Despite the Rugby Football Union's exclusion from the Five Nations TV Committee meeting held near Heathrow, Twickenham has drawn a measure of comfort from Scotland's inclusion of the traditional Calcutta Cup match in their official fixture list for the new season.

England believe they have a legal right under the current television contract with the BBC, which they are willing to test in the courts - to participate in next year's Five Nations Championship but English concern about being consigned to an international man's league has diminished sharply this month.

South Africa, the World Cup holders, who finished third in this year's Tri-Nations tournament, are the latest country to agree to play England on an annual basis irrespective of their participation in other competitions. In addition Namibia, Fiji and Western Samoa are virtually certain to figure in warm-up matches against England whenever they embark on a

relatively short trip to the Southern Hemisphere for a major Test. Italy are also expected to play England once a year.

England remain optimistic that a compromise over their \$37.5 million TV deal with BSkyB can be worked out with the other home unions but they also take the view that the long-term development of English rugby depends mainly on frequent meetings with the Southern Hemisphere nations. "We want to keep our latest proposals over the TV contract with the other unions confidential but, having said that, the Five Nations Championship is now merely a part of the overall competitive picture and not the apex of the season," said an RFU spokesman.

"It is up to the other home unions to get back to us but we don't think any constructive purpose is served by the unions criticising each other in public. The ball is in their court and now we can only wait and see what they come up with."

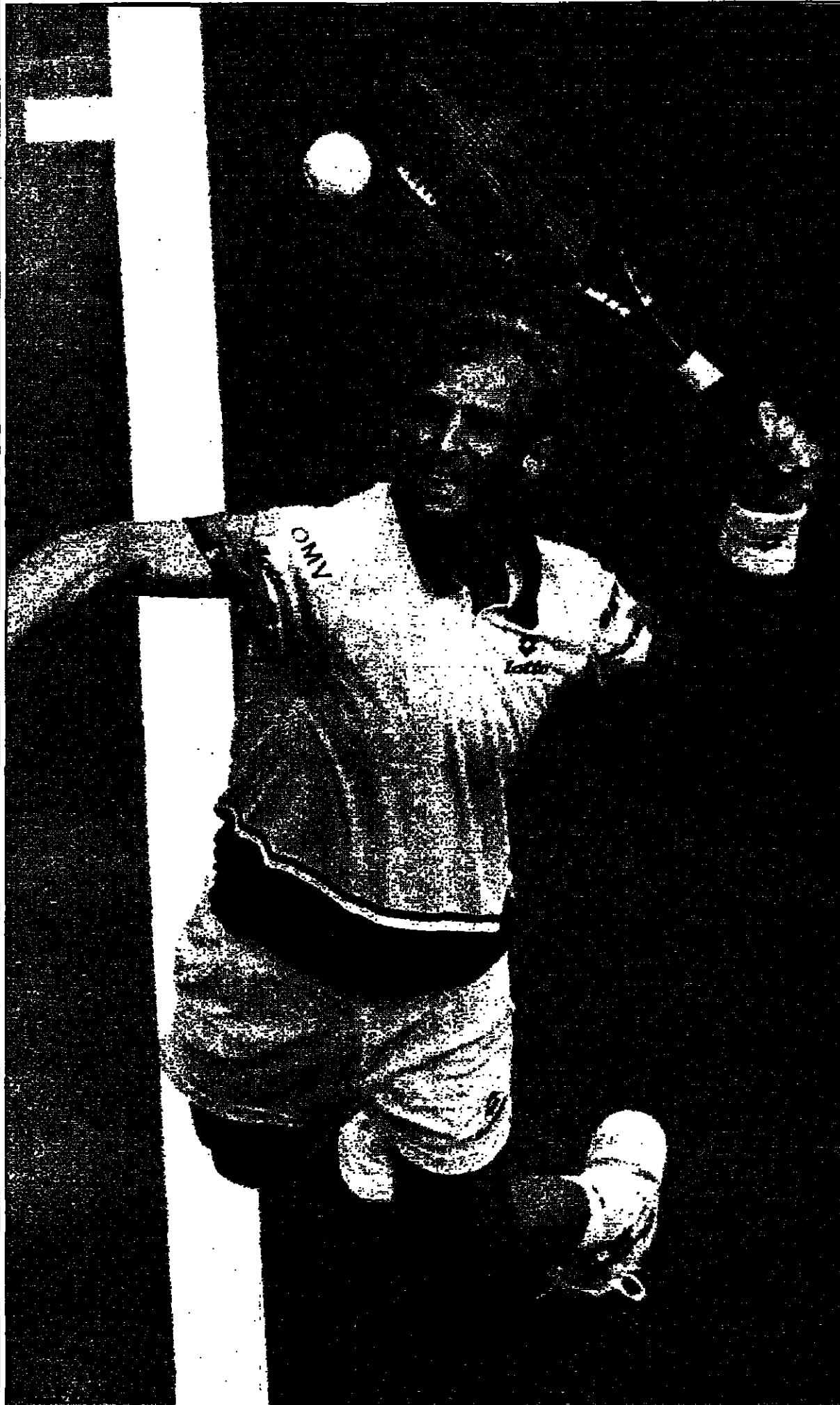
"We expect next season's Five Nations matches to go ahead as planned and in addition these games arranged as part of the Anglo-Welsh club competition remain on our fixture list. The clubs involved are already preparing for them."

England's leading players are eager to perform in Five Nations matches next February and March before they face the challenge of South Africa in late March or April; the Springboks, of course, will also face some Englishmen in the three Tests at the Lions next June and July. Those elite players who receive contracts worth around £40,000 a year from the RFU believe Twickenham is not in a position to concede too much to the other unions in terms of TV revenue already negotiated for their home games.

There is also growing unease among the Welsh clubs that the Welsh Rugby Union may be over-playing its hand in turning down a £40.5 million offer from BSkyB in the hope of hammering out a satisfactory alternative deal with a terrestrial channel.

Year of change, page 15

US OPEN: TWO FORMER CHAMPIONS SHOW LITTLE SIGN OF RECENT WOBBLES



Serving notice... Thomas Muster, the third seed, during his 6-1, 7-6, 6-2 win over Javier Frana. PHOTOGRAPH BY MINE SEGAR

Sampras and Seles waste no time

Stephen Bierley at Flushing Meadows

PETE SAMPRAS and Monica Seles boarded fast trains to first-round victories here yesterday, though both have experienced such trials and tribulations this year that it is impossible to be certain that their blood will not be on the tracks farther down the line.

The relatively poor form of Sampras this year, and his failure to win a Grand Slam title, can largely be put down to the long-term grief he suffered over the illness and ultimate death of his close friend and coach Tim Gullikson.

Sampras admitted he was blown away by Australia's Mark Philippoussis in the third round of the Australian Open early in the year, but his emotional fragility in the French Open and Wimbledon could not be hidden.

He returned to winning ways just before the US Open with a victory in Indianapolis against Goran Ivanisevic. Not that this can necessarily be seen as a good omen: in the three years Sampras has won the US title he has never won the tournament immediately before.

Sampras, the world No. 1 and top seed here, has won two Grand Slam tournaments in each year since 1993. He should have begun his defence against Adrian Panatta but the Romanian pulled out in the morning with an ankle injury and was replaced by Jimmy Szymanski of Venezuela, a lucky - or perhaps not so lucky - loser.

Szymanski, aged 20, had never played a Grand Slam match before and was duly dispatched in straight sets.

The reasons for Seles's struggles this year are altogether more complex. She began the year with victory in the Australian Open against Germany's Anke Huber, a first-round loser here on Monday, but then began to have problems with her right shoulder.

At the French Open she was beaten in the quarter-finals

by Jana Novotna, who repeated this victory in the Olympics while at Wimbledon Seles lost tanelly in the second round to Slovakia's Katarina Studenikova.

In both those defeats Seles was unable to win the big points; her mental strength was suddenly called into question. Indeed in Paris she admitted to being "scared", a word nobody had heard her use before. How much of this can be put down to her injury, and how much is a residue of the 1993 stabbing, remains unclear.

But yesterday, against the 19-year-old American Anna Miller, there were few problems, as the 6-0, 6-1 score suggests. The stickiest moment for Seles came in the third game of the opening set when Miller took the No. 2 seed's serve to a screech.

Seles is still not decided when she will have an operation to the deep-rooted shoulder tear. She lost more than two years because of the stabbing and faces six months' rehabilitation if she has surgery. "I don't want to think about it. Maybe there is a chance of avoiding an operation." This seems to be wishful thinking.

Thomas Muster, No. 3 seed, made short work of Argentina's Javier Frana and there was an equally emphatic first-round victory for America's Lindsey Davenport, the Olympic champion, against Italy's Adriana Serra-Zanetti.

The first night match of this year's tournament was Andre Agassi's resplendent (or otherwise, according to taste) in a blue shirt the shade of a French garage mechanic's overalls, turn out the light on Colombia's Mauricio Hadad in extremely straight sets.

The men's tournament, which had already lost two top-10 players - Boris Becker (injured) and Yevgeny Kafelnikov (returned home in a huff) - was further weakened when Jim Courier, the No. 8 seed, pulled out with a bruised left knee.

Britain's Tim Henman made a winning start when he defeated the 157th-ranked substitute Robert Jahl 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Graham ready to take on City job

Ian Ross on the search for a successor to Alan Ball in the Maine Road hot seat

MANCHESTER City found themselves treading familiar ground yesterday when they began scouring the country for a manager capable of rousing one of English football's slumbering giants. George Graham is the early favourite.

On Monday evening, three games into the season, the last man charged with the responsibility for overseeing a renaissance in the club's fortunes, Alan Ball, resigned.

If Ball's fraught relationship with the First Division club's long-suffering support made his departure inevitable, the question of who will succeed him at Maine Road is not so clear-cut.

Graham, the former Arsenal manager, officially registered his interest within hours of learning that Ball's 13-month reign had come to

an end. "Of course I am interested; I would have to be," he said. "This is a big job at what is a very big club. But I have not yet spoken to anyone."

Certainly the 51-year-old Scot will figure prominently on a shortlist of candidates that will be drawn up this evening when the City board meets in emergency session.

"If George Graham or whoever else made it known to us they were interested in the job, we would, of course, interview them," said the City chairman Francis Lee.

Graham was considered by City in July last year between the sacking of Brian Horton and the appointment of Ball. At that point he was believed to be third choice, ahead of Ball but behind Manchester United's assistant manager Brian Kidd and Bruce Rioch, who was dismissed by Arsenal a fortnight ago.

Predictably Lee was yesterday fulsome in his praise of Ball's character and courage

under fire. "He has had a torrid time in the press and the fans have started to have a go also," said Lee. "When that happens, it is very difficult to rectify things. Alan Ball has done a lot of good things for this club but the results on the pitch are what matters most."

"I admire him for his decision and admire a lot of other things he has done here. He has got more guts in his big toe than a lot of people have got in their whole body. We all wish him well in the future," he added.

Lee also revealed that Ball had been required to quell something of a player mutiny last season, centred around Maine Road's most valuable asset, the Georgian international midfielder Georgi Kinkladze.

"There were one or two players in the dressing-room who were causing problems," said Lee. "Senior players who are not now with the club did not want him in the team and that was the sort of situation Alan had to sort out."

Ball's assistant, Asa Hartford, a former City player, has been placed in charge of first-team affairs on a temporary basis but whether or not he will still be running things when City next take the field, against Charlton Athletic on Tuesday night, remains to be seen.

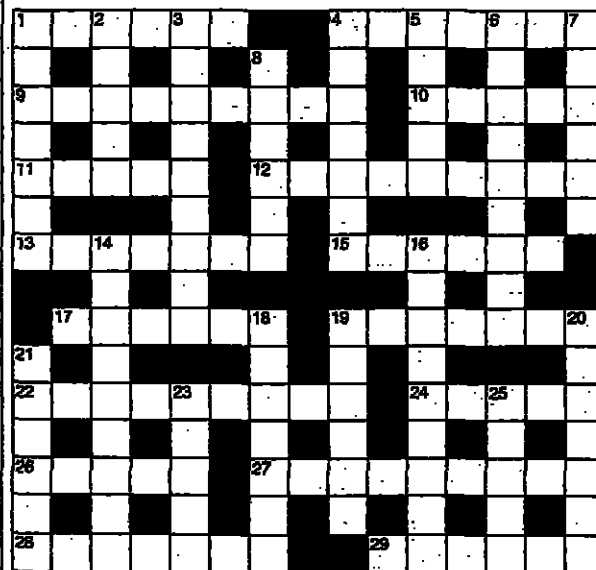


Lee...praise for Ball

Case for Graham, page 14

Guardian Crossword No 20,743

Set by Orlando

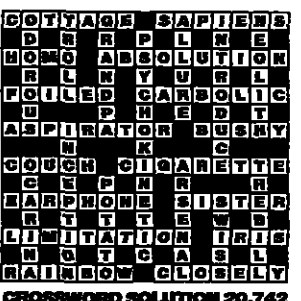


Across

- 1 Animals, constant freight for sailors (5)
- 4 Compensation for mother taking a long time (7)
- 9 Vest spring? Not so (9)
- 10 Contemptuously refuse a little sugar grain (5)
- 11 City, leader in sin, suffering doom (5)
- 12 Tense claim that one lacks faults (9)
- 13 Violation of palisade (7)
- 15 Hunter's D minor variation (6)
- 17 Fruit and nuts rejected by child (6)
- 19 Very moral old city - it is embraced by a god (7)
- 22 Jewish governor turning to American historian (8)
- 24 Took initial copies of recordings (5)

Down

- 1 Check when cold duck needed hot sauce (7)
- 2 Enclose money (5)
- 3 Churned-up mud's inert elements (5)
- 4 Rough sand put in receptacle (7)
- 5 Scrooge in film is erratic (5)
- 6 Bird has to pay for plant (9)
- 7 Utter idiot going in for mental health (5)
- 8 Stop work and go to bed (6)
- 14 The scent of cod in another country (9)
- 16 Money for German airline



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,742

- 25 Goes to one northern writer (4,5)
- 18 Stationery item obtained from school when returning home (7)
- 19 Delicately coloured plates thrown (6)
- 20 Remedy for saint restrained by lack of spirit (7)
- 21 Ghosts in sunglasses (5)
- 23 Dismal doctor gets audience (5)
- 25 Grass given to an animal (5)

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From time to time he would invite his favourites into a small workshop next to the gym, where he plied us with Senior Service untipped and bottles of Mackeson before plunging his busy fingers down our shorts.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.